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The New American

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THAT FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH

INTEL'S REAL TARGET: AMERICA

The John Birch Society Is Still Winning Big

Worldwide Persecution of Christians

THE NEW AMERICAN
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The New American to Cover the Better Way Conference

This year, the WCH is focusing on ways to preserve health, freedom, and sovereignty.

In its quest for truth and accountability during the Covid pandemic, *The New American* magazine has made numerous alliances with like-minded public figures and organizations dedicated to preserving medical freedom, national sovereignty, and individual wellbeing.

On June 2-4, the World Council for Health is holding its second annual *Better Way* conference in Bath, U.K., to discuss how we can "optimize our health and well-being, build conscious communities, use technology with discernment, restore our sovereignty, and connect and collaborate with others," according to its website.

TNA Senior Editor Veronika Kyrylenko has been invited to interview the keynote speakers and host two panel discussions. The interviews will be posted at TheNewAmerican.com.

You can watch the conference online by purchasing a ticket.

https://betterwayconference.org/tna

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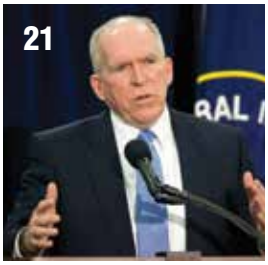

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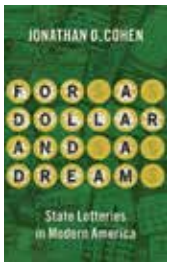

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Know More. Do More.

We are vexed by the Roman goddess Fortuna, it would seem. The Roman stoic Seneca said of her that Fortuna "doth bestow the throne's high boon with mocking hand" and that whatever she "has raised on high, she lifts but to bring low." Alas, this would seem to be the state of our civilization.

Today's crisis is unlike any other. In the past, no matter the scale of the crisis, problems were concrete — they were real. Today the crisis is different — logic is denied, reason disparaged, and increasingly the agents of chaos working for the Deep State seem intent on overthrowing reality itself. The rebellion against reality is revealed by the rise of transgenderism and transhumanism, by aggressive attempts to censor opinions that otherwise accord with reality and the rise of alternative consciousness — more broadly known as *artificial* intelligence. This tells us all we need to know: reality is to be replaced with artifice.

The New American stands against all this. This is suggested in our long-standing slogan: "That freedom shall not perish." Freedom is anchored in the natural rights — the *real* rights — that exist for each person as a natural consequence of life and that were identified in the immortal language of Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence, that all people "are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness."

This is foundational reality. Yet the Deep State seeks to overthrow these rights in order to institute their dream of international tyranny. They've concluded — as George Orwell warned in *1984* — that success requires rewriting reality itself.

And so, here we are today, perched on the precipice to which it *seems* we were led by Fortuna. But are we powerless to confront our fate? Machiavelli thought not. "It is not unknown to me how many men have had, and still have, the opinion that the affairs of the world are in such wise governed by fortune and by God that men with their wisdom cannot direct them and that no one can even help them; and because of this they would have us believe that it is not necessary to labour much in affairs, but to let chance govern them." Instead, he wrote in *The Prince*, "I hold it to be true that Fortune is the arbiter of one-half of our actions, but that she still leaves us to direct the other half."

To counteract the ill wind of fortune — and the conspiracy against reality perpetrated by the Deep State — requires first merely the acquisition of accurate knowledge of the ground state of reality. Reality exists, can be known, and should be reported and placed into perspective. Properly informed, an intelligent citizenry can make plans to further its own interests against those who assault the very fabric of reality.

In short, first you must learn — you must *know more*. That accomplished, you can act: You can *do more*.

This has long been the core mission of *The New American*. Now, though, we are making it explicit as part of an upcoming nationwide marketing campaign that aims to radically increase the market accessibility — and success — of this magazine. The tagline for our new campaign will be *"Know More. Do More."*

We arrive, then, at a time of challenge and opportunity. It is up to us to determine whether the Republic stands or falls, and whether liberty lives or dies. Join us in this challenge, opportunity, and adventure. Together we can learn more, know more, and do more to save our Republic and our freedom. ■

— Dennis Behreandt

CORRECTION: In the QuickQuotes section of our March 13 issue, we misidentified U.S. Representative James Comer of Kentucky as James Comey. We apologize for the mistake.

EXTRA COPIES AVAILABLE

Additional copies of this issue of *The New American* are available at quantity-discount prices. To place your order, visit www.shopjbs.org or see the card between pages 34-35.

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Fed Chair Admits Recession, Rate Hikes to Prank Callers

According to Bloomberg on April 27, during a prank call with two Russians impersonating Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in January this year, U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell made some startling admissions, ranging from inflation to the possibility of establishing a Federal Reserve bank in Kyiv. Video clips apparently of Powell on the call initially emerged on Russian television.

"Chair Powell participated in a conversation in January with someone who misrepresented himself as the Ukrainian president," a Fed spokesperson said. "It was a friendly conversation and took place in a context of our standing in support of the Ukrainian people in this challenging time. No sensitive or confidential information was discussed."

Jerome Powell

AP Images

However, thinking he was speaking with Zelensky, Powell did divulge during the call that the Fed would increase rates two more times, despite having been more discreet about the topic even when testifying before Congress. He also admitted that the U.S. economy would grow "at a subdued level" and that a recession would be "almost as likely as very slow growth," as the Fed "raised rates quite a bit," a move he justified on the pretext of curtailing inflation. "What we need is a period of slower growth so that the economy can cool off, so the labor market can cool off, so that wages can cool off…. That's the only way we know to bring inflation down. And it can be painful, but we don't know of any painless way for inflation to come down."

The incident has triggered security concerns for the Fed, as its comments frequently impact markets, affecting the American and global economies.

Bloomberg revealed that the pranksters, who go by the nicknames Vovan and Lexus, are backers of Russian President Vladimir Putin, and that they publish their talks to embarrass Western policymakers. They have also succeeded in pranking European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde, Polish President Andrzej Duda, and former German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

UN Report: Minors Can Consent to Sex With Adults

On April 17, the Washington Free Beacon reported that "the United Nations is working to mainstream sex with minors." The outlet was referring to "The 8 March Principles for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Criminal Law Proscribing Conduct Associated with Sex, Reproduction, Drug Use, HIV, Homelessness and Poverty," aka "The 8 March Principles."

"Sexual conduct involving persons below the domestically prescribed minimum age of consent to sex may be consensual in fact, if not in law…. The enforcement of criminal law should reflect the rights and capacity of persons under 18 years of age to make decisions about engaging in consensual sexual conduct and their right to be heard in matters concerning them," reads the report, released in March and written by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) with support from UNAIDS and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"Pursuant to their evolving capacities and progressive autonomy, persons under 18 years of age should participate in decisions affecting them, with due regard to their age, maturity, and best interests, and with specific attention to non-discrimination guarantees," the document declares.

The report also promotes the abolition of laws forbidding fornication and adultery of all stripes: "Consensual sexual conduct, irrespective of the type of sexual activity, the sex/gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression of the people involved, or their marital status, may not be criminalized in any circumstances. Consensual same-sex, as well as consensual different-sex sexual relations, or consensual sexual relations with or between trans, nonbinary, and other gender-diverse people, or outside marriage — whether pre-marital or extramarital — may, therefore, never be criminalized."

The UN-sponsored "8 March Principles" could undermine America's national age-of-consent laws. It is yet another reason for the people of the United States, if we are to save our culture, children, and families, to get our country out of the United Nations.

MagMos/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Climate Crazies Target Big Banks

Reuters reported on April 24 that climate vandals that day targeted large American banks with spray paint and protests in a bid to get the financial institutions to stop funding fossil-fuel projects and create more ESG-friendly investments. In New York, Citigroup and Bank of America were hit with raucous protests and vandalism in the form of graffiti sprayed on their buildings. A Wells Fargo bank in San Francisco was also the scene of a large protest, in which activists chained themselves to the doors of the facility. Reuters noted the activity was in anticipation of the banks' shareholder meetings scheduled for the next day.

Climate-hysteric groups including Climate Organizing Hub, Extinction Rebellion, Green Faith, Oil and Gas Network, and Stop the Money Pipeline were involved in the protests, although no specific group took responsibility for the vandalism.

Baby Boomers were among the most vocal protesters, with a group called Third Act threatening to use their substantial investments in such banks to push for more climate-friendly investing. "As retirees, we have a lot of money in places like Citibank, Fidelity, Vanguard, Chase and Wells Fargo, and they're using our money to fund new fossil fuel projects. We're asking them to stop it," said Siuli Gowilt, a member of Third Act.

The banks did little about the protests except issue tepid statements about how they understood where the rage was coming from and how they were trying to do better when it comes to climate change. "Citi respects the advocacy of climate activists and their right to protest. We recognize the importance of transitioning to a low-carbon economy. That's why we're investing in clean energy solutions through our net zero commitments and our $1 trillion commitment to sustainable finance," Citigroup said in a statement to Reuters.

Climate crazies have previously glued themselves to tennis courts and vandalized priceless pieces of art to protest fossil fuels — which, like it or not, our society still depends upon to power our lives.

twitter.com/StopMoneyPipe

Sheriff Won't Enforce Unconstitutional Gun Laws

According to the *Livingston Daily* on April 18, a subcommittee of the Livingston County (Michigan) Board of Commissioners has put forth a resolution reaffirming their support of the Second Amendment, and have instructed the county sheriff and the county prosecutor to refuse to enforce any federal gun regulation that they deem unconstitutional.

This is not Livingston's first effort to protect its residents' right to keep and bear arms — in 2020 they passed a resolution designating the county a "Second Amendment Sanctuary." But the new resolution goes further and declares Livingston County to be a "constitutional county" that will not fund any new program infringing on the right to keep and bear arms, a right protected by both the U.S. and Michigan constitutions.

Moussa81/iStock/Getty Images Plus

The resolution reads in part: "This board will not authorize or appropriate new funds, resources, employees, agencies, contractors, buildings, detention centers or offices for the sole purposes of enforcing any statute, law, rule, order, or regulation that restricts the rights of any law-abiding citizen affirmed by the Second Amendment or Article 1, Section 6, of the Michigan Constitution, nor be used to aid any state or federal agency in infringing or restricting such rights."

During a meeting of the Board of Commissioners on April 11, Livingston County Sheriff Mike Murphy expressed his support for the resolution and outlined his department's position regarding proposed red flag laws: "I'm not going to support, enforce, investigate anything that is unconstitutional when it comes to 2A or any other constitutional matter. I'm a constitutional sheriff and I'm not going to do anything that is going to jeopardize that, and if, God forbid, the red flag laws do pass, we won't be enforcing those or investigating those either."

The Livingston County Board of Commissioners and Sheriff Murphy are to be commended for their resistance to federal overreach. Their rock-ribbed defense of the right of the people to arm themselves is an example for their colleagues in the other 49 states to follow. ■

GOP Chairwoman Responds to Biden's Announcement of His 2024 Candidacy

"Biden is so out-of-touch that after creating crisis after crisis, he thinks he deserves another four years. Republicans are united to beat Biden and Americans are counting the days until they can send him packing."

Republican Committee Chairwoman **Ronna McDaniel** *could have quoted the president, who, after two years of disasters that are clouding the future for Americans, stated that he needed reelection to "finish the job." Many Americans believe that the "job" he has been busily working to complete is to destroy the independence of our nation and the freedom of its people.*

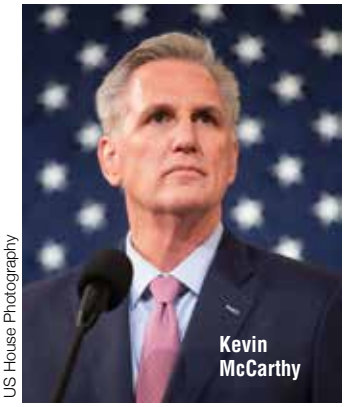
Ronna McDaniel

AP Images

More Than 45 Million People Owe $1.6 Trillion for Federal Student Loans

"*The New York Times* published the above statistic and asked readers who might be among the 45 million to send comments about their indebtedness."

A "pause" in student-loan payments was allowed during the Covid pandemic, and will likely end when the Supreme Court rules on the matter in June. The Biden administration is seeking partial or total forgiveness of the loans, knowing that most of the 45 million borrowers will support him in the 2024 election if some or all of the amount due is cancelled. **Reporters at the New York Times Business Desk** *have been gathering information about this matter for an extended period.*


Kevin McCarthy

US House Photography

RFK, Jr.'s Campaign for President Attracts Some Opponents of Covid Vaccines

"The Covid vaccines are not effective and not safe. I believe that only Bobby Kennedy Jr. is capable of getting rid of the corruption that is so deeply embedded in every agency of our government."

A nurse practitioner from Brooklin, Maine, **Claire Mortimer** *drove to Boston to attend Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s announcement that he is now a candidate for the Democratic Party's 2024 presidential nomination.*

House Speaker's Letter Attacks Biden Administration Spending

"I am incredibly concerned that you are putting an already fragile economy in jeopardy by insisting upon your extreme position of refusing to negotiate any meaningful changes to out-of-control government spending."

Speaker **Kevin McCarthy** *sent his letter to President Biden on March 28, 2023.*

Both Political Parties Should Be Blamed for Huge Federal Indebtedness

"It's not a simple story of Republicans cut taxes and Democrats grow spending. Actually, they all like to do all of it."

The president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget and a committed deficit hawk, **Maya MacGuineas** *pointed her finger at both political parties for amassing the $31.4 trillion federal indebtedness.*

ATF Director Can't Even Define an Assault Weapon

"I, unlike you, am not a firearms expert to the same extent you may be. And if Congress wants a definition of 'assault weapon,' I think Congress would have to do the work but we would be there to provide technical assistance."

ATF Director **Steve Dettelbach** *made the above statement before the House Appropriations Subcommittee. Nevertheless, he has never hesitated to declare his support for an "assault weapons" ban while stating publicly that he can't define the term "assault weapon."* ■

— Compiled by John F. McManus

Steve Dettelbach

AP Images

INTEL'S REAL TARGET: AMERICA

For decades our Deep State political leaders have been appointing chiefs to our intelligence agencies who have been supporting the globalist agenda to end America.

by William F. Jasper

This latest political prosecution of President Trump by radical-left Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, a George Soros-funded candidate who bragged when running for his current office that he had "sued Trump more than a hundred times," points to an alarming escalation of the *de facto* civil war that is being waged by the insiders of Permanent Washington — the Deep State — against the citizens of Real America. This transparently politicized/weaponized prosecution of a former president — unprecedented in American history — is but another vicious attack in the unceasing *persecution* of Donald Trump, which began before he was even inaugurated as 45th president of the United States, and has continued with a vengeance since he left the White House.

Please note that Donald Trump is not the ultimate target. As Trump himself has said, the *real* target is *us*, the American people. The anti-American, anti-family, anti-Christian Deep State operatives who are running the mumbling, bumbling, dementia-challenged Biden are sending an unmistakable message: If we can take down Donald Trump with all his wealth, power, fame, and popular support, the rest of you peasants don't stand a chance. "Resistance is futile," they are telling us, "so don't resist!"

Every sentient being *knows* that there is some shadowy force operating in the corridors of power that is pushing for the "transformation" of our country into something alien, something incompatible with our Republic of constitutionally limited government, incompatible with our Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights, and incompatible with, and overtly hostile to, Christian morality. How is it possible that *virtually all* of the Democratic Party leadership, *virtually all* of the "mainstream" media, *virtually all* of academia, *virtually all* of the leaders of Big Tech and social media, *virtually all* of Hollywood and the entertainment/music industry, *virtually all* of the big think tanks and tax-exempt foundations, and, most surprising (to many observers), *virtually all* of the CEOs of the big Wall Street firms and Fortune 500 corporations are going along with or actually leading this revolution?

William F. Jasper is a senior editor of The New American.

Every sentient being *knows* that there is some shadowy force operating in the corridors of power that is pushing for the "transformation" of our country into something alien, something incompatible with our Republic of constitutionally limited government.

AP Images

Persecution: Former President Donald Trump is escorted to a Manhattan courtroom on April 4, 2023, for presentation of an indictment by New York District Attorney Alvin Bragg alleging that he falsified business records in an attempt to illegally influence the 2016 presidential election.

Get Trump, Protect Biden

The primary focus of this article and its companion articles on pages 19 and 21 is what has come to be called the "intelligence community" (IC). This collection of 18 federal agencies has been an indispensable arm of the Deep State coterie that is dismantling our Republic and the moral-social fabric of our society to shape us into a New World Order that would resemble the dystopia of Communist China.

The key chiefs of the intelligence community were tasked with targeting and undermining Donald Trump even before he ascended to the Oval Office. They were assigned with much of the heavy lifting of what became a series of coup attempts against Donald J. Trump, the duly elected president of the United States. There have, in fact, been so many IC/Big Media operations orchestrated against Trump that we can, in the space here available, barely skim a few of them.

On October 14, 2020, Team Biden was gobsmacked by bombshell revelations that could have ended Joe Biden's bid for the White House. On that day, the *New York Post* began a series of articles on the now-infamous Hunter Biden "laptop from hell." The opening salvo from

It was they — Clapper, Hayden, Brennan, and company — who were "interfering in our democracy" and pulling out the stops to help Biden and stop Trump.

the *Post,* under the headline, "Smoking-gun email reveals how Hunter Biden introduced Ukrainian businessman to VP dad," showed email communications between Joe Biden's son Hunter and a top executive of Burisma — a Ukrainian energy company that was paying Hunter $50,000 a month to sit on its board even though he had no knowledge or experience with regard to energy and was widely known to be a debauched drug abuser. What Hunter *did* have was a dad who was vice president of the United States. One of the emails asked Hunter for "advice on how you could use your influence" on Burisma's behalf.

Among the thousands of emails were many additional damning communications, along with a trove of pornographic photos and videos (apparently selfies taken by Hunter) showing the younger Biden naked, smoking crack, and engaged in sex acts with various women. There were (and remain) huge national-security issues involved here. You wouldn't know that, however, from the immediate reaction of the Deep State cognoscenti in the media, social media, the IC, and the Democratic Party. The UniParty globalists reflexively denounced the *Post* and made various arguments challenging the provenance and authenticity of the laptop and suggesting that the emails, photos, and videos had been doctored. Facebook and Twitter blocked the *Post's* article and blocked their social-media users from reposting the article — and all subsequent articles on the Biden laptop.

AP Images

Liars and leakers: FBI Director James Comey (left) and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper are emblematic of the mendacious and ruthlessly ambitious men whom our Deep State politicians have sought out and appointed to head our intelligence agencies.

The intel community was quick to jump in, using "retired" IC operatives to "debunk" the *Post's* stories as a Russian disinformation plot. An October 20 letter signed by 51 former high-level national-security officials came to Biden's rescue, claiming the laptop story had "all the classic earmarks of a Russian information operation." The big-name signatories to the letter were James Clapper, former director of national intelligence; Michael Hayden, former director of both the CIA and NSA; and John Brennan, former director of the CIA — implacable Trump haters all. The letter by these "experts" claimed that Russia would "pull out the stops to do anything possible to help Trump win and/or to weaken Biden should he win." Moreover, they declared, "A 'laptop op' fits the bill, as the publication of the emails are [sic] clearly designed to discredit Biden.… It is high time that Russia stops interfering in our democracy."

It was a monstrous lie, of course. It was *they* — Clapper, Hayden, Brennan, and company — who were "interfering in our democracy" and pulling out the stops to *help Biden and stop Trump*. But they provided *The New York Times*, CNN, MSNBC, NPR, and the entire Fake News media conglomerate with an excuse to blast the laptop — on "expert" authority — as a Putin disinformation ploy. Joe Biden and his spokesmen used the letter repeatedly to swat down any questions about the explosive laptop. The signers of the letter, naturally, were instantly in huge demand on all the liberal-left talking-head shows on television, radio, and podcasts. This was, essentially, a CIA operation, with 43 of the 51 signers being "former" CIA (but, obviously, still working for "the Company"). One signer of the letter, former CIA senior officer John Sipher, who blogs and appears regularly in major media outlets, later admitted — nay, *boasted* — that he had engaged in election interference. "I take special pride in personally swinging the election away from Trump," Sipher tweeted, more than a year after he and his IC co-conspirators had subverted the election process. On April 4, 2023, former CIA official Michael Morell testified to the House Judiciary Committee that Antony Blinken (CFR), then advisor to candidate

Biden and now secretary of state, "triggered" the letter with a call to Morell.

Two and a half years later, NPR, *The New York Times*, and many other media outfits now admit the laptop is real, that it belonged to Hunter Biden, and that the data on it — emails, photos, videos, etc. — are authentic. But now it's "old news," we are told, so it is still being censored as unnewsworthy: "Nothing to see here — move along," the media herd says in unison.

Another IC Deep State operation from the same period comes courtesy of the FBI, DOJ, and the same media cabal. Just six days before the *New York Post* broke the Hunter Biden laptop story, the DOJ/FBI hit Trump with an October surprise out of the Wolverine State. On October 8, 2020 the FBI announced the arrest of 13 men in an alleged plot to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, a far-left Democrat. Predictably, Whitmer and the media choir blamed Trump's rhetoric for inspiring the plot. As it turned out, the FBI had more than a dozen *agents provocateurs*, paid operatives, and informants inside the plot, and had, in fact, scripted, organized, and paid for the entire scheme. In other words, as the court records show, there wouldn't have been a "kidnapping plot" if the FBI hadn't organized it. The agent in charge of that false-flag operation, Steven DiAntuono, was rewarded for conducting this deceptive operation by being promoted to head the FBI's Washington, D.C., office — just in time for the highly suspicious January 6 melee.

These two events in the same month, October 2020 — one to smear President Trump with the domestic terrorist label, the other to save Joe Biden from facing the consequences of the revelation of multiple alleged criminal acts of his son, his brother, and himself — were undoubtedly promulgated to aid Joe Biden and hurt Donald Trump. The total effects of these two operations on the election are incalculable, but undeniably huge. It is altogether possible that, apart from all of the other election-fraud issues, these two operations alone may have been sufficient to cost Donald Trump the election.

AP Images

Laptop liability: Hunter Biden's laptop, with all its sketchy business deals, drugs, porn, and national-security concerns, threatened to upend Papa Joe's presidential run, so it had to be "debunked" by "intelligence experts" as a Russian disinformation plot.

Spying, Lying, Betraying

The Whitmer kidnap plot/Biden laptop capers, which came at the end of President Trump's term in the White House, were preceded by a series of coup attempts that is as astonishing as it is unprecedented. As we have reported previously, on November 17, 2016, Trump received an emergency visit from a top U.S. intelligence official. That official was Admiral Mike Rogers, who then served as director of the National Security Agency (NSA), as well as chief of the Central Security Service (CSS) and commander of the United States Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM). Admiral Rogers had come to Trump Tower in New York City to warn the president-elect of a treasonous coup plot involving key leaders in the other intelligence agencies and top members of the Obama administration. Rogers was no right-winger, and had presided over the NSA's continual expansion of unconstitutional gathering of data (emails, texts, phone calls) of millions of Americans. Nevertheless, he apparently drew a line at traitorous efforts to overthrow the constitutionally elected president of our country.

Following his meeting with NSA Director Rogers, Trump immediately moved all transition activity to Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, New Jersey, and had a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) built at Trump Tower to prevent hostile surveillance — from enemies both foreign and domestic. When Trump announced that the Obama administration's intel community was spying on him, he was met with scoffs and howls of derision in the legacy media. However, more than three years later, in January 2020, Inspector General Michael Horowitz's report on the Obama administration's violations under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) found that the FBI *did indeed spy* on Trump's campaign during the election.

But it went far beyond "merely" illegally spying on Team Trump. It involved, among other things, attempting to cripple the incoming Trump administration by entrapping Trump's National Security Advisor General Michael Flynn and trying to imprison him with false claims that he had lied to the FBI about conversations with Russian Ambassador Sergei Kislyak. Independent-minded, pro-American

AP Images

Provocation and deception: The 2020 "October Surprise" of an FBI-directed kidnap plot against Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer was blamed on Donald Trump at the same time that Deep State intel operatives were discrediting the genuine Hunter Biden laptop threat.

IC officials are a nightmare for the Deep State, as the efforts to deep-six Admiral Mike Rogers and General Michael Flynn indicate. Flynn, as former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, knew too much to be allowed to help President Trump, so he had to be taken out, no matter how foul the methods. He was falsely charged with lying to the FBI (among other things) and reputationally assassinated by the Fake News media cartel. A pardon by President Trump saved the general from an unjust and spiteful prison sentence.

However, there was no prosecution or prison prospect for FBI Deputy Assistant Director for Counterintelligence Peter Strzok and FBI lawyer Lisa Page, the infamous Trump-hating duo (and adulterous lovers) who were revealed to have engaged in multiple felony crimes, including rewriting the FBI 302 report on General Flynn and fabricating "quotes" from him that they could cite as lies. They financially ruined an innocent man and tried to railroad him into jail — which is where *they* should be. But DOJ declined to prosecute them. Instead, after being fired from the FBI, they were richly rewarded: Strzok was named an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and regularly appears as an "expert analyst" on CNN, MSNBC, and other media; Page was hired as a contributor to NBC News.

The effort to deep-six Flynn went above Strzok and Page to include FBI Director James Comey, FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, FBI General Counsel James A. Baker, and acting Attorney General Sally Yates (an Obama holdover) — none of whom was prosecuted. Comey was rewarded for his lying and leaking with a multimillion-dollar book deal, an adulatory media tour, six-figure speaking fees, and a *Washington Post* contract to write opinion columns. McCabe was hired by CNN and scored a book deal. Baker was hired by the far-left Brookings Institution and Harvard Law, and, most importantly, became Twitter's top guy coordinating censorship for Biden and the intel community, including banning mention of the Hunter Biden laptop and suspending Twitter users who mentioned it. Ultimately, Baker was fired by new Twitter owner Elon Musk for "suppression" of information.

The "Get Flynn" scheme, of course, was only one small part of the larger "Get Trump" effort that unfolded during the multiple years-long "investigations" into allegations of Trump-Russia collusion, baseless claims that have been shot down repeatedly — but continue to come back, thanks to the incessant repetition of "Russia collusion" by Deep State media shills. A central piece of that operation was the now-totally discredited and salacious "Steele Dossier," which proved to be a completely fabricated smear job paid for by the Hillary Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee. In other words, it was a political hit piece camouflaged and circulated through the IC and the controlled media to give it the appearance of a legit exposé of corruption and treason.

The chief fabricator of the Steele dossier, the eponymous Christopher Steele, is a "former" spy for Britain's MI6 (also known as the Secret Intelligence Service, SIS). Steele utilized Russian "sources," which means he was funneling *disinformation* from Putin's intel community, which means it was Team Clinton doing Putin's work, not Trump.

The investigation by Special Counsel John Durham into possible intelligence abuses during the "Trump-Russia collusion" witch hunt led to some important revelations concerning the Steele Dossier's ties to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) — the elite, private club that functions as the brain trust, command center, and public face of the Deep State — and its sister organization, the Brookings Institution. It turns out that Steele's "Primary Subsource" for alleged Russian dirt on Trump was Russian citizen Igor Danchenko, a longtime employee of Brookings. Danchenko had been hired by Brookings President Strobe Talbott, a protégé of KGB agent Victor Louis and pal of Bill Clinton going back to their Oxford University days (Talbott later became President Clinton's Deputy Secretary of State). A committed "global citizen," Talbott is also a longtime CFR member.

Deep State IC: All-out War on Trump

Less than two weeks before President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration, Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) told MSNBC's Rachel Maddow that Trump is "really dumb" for defending himself against the bogus charges of Russia collusion being pushed by the Brennan-Clapper-Comey IC cabal. "Let me tell you: You take on the intelligence community — they have six ways from Sunday at getting back at you," Schumer gleefully remarked to the rabidly anti-Trump MSNBC host.

A few days after Senator Schumer made those comments, Daniel Benjamin, a former assistant to President Bill Clinton and advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, put a finer point on the to-be-expected IC retaliation in an article for *Politico*. "Leakers and whistleblowers won't hesitate," Benjamin noted. What former Deputy CIA Director Michael Morell "and other intelligence veterans are too decorous to mention," he wrote, "is that Trump's treatment of his spies will also come back to bite him in the form of leaking and whistleblowing. The intelligence community doesn't leak as much as the Pentagon or Congress, but when its reputation is at stake, it can do so to devastating effect."

The Schumer and Benjamin statements were but two of the many early chilling warnings that key leaders of the intelligence community were (and are) engaged in treason to sabotage, subvert, and overthrow the constitutional order they have sworn to protect and defend. And they did so against President Trump, with "devastating effect," as Benjamin suggested they would. The non-stop torrent of strategically timed illegal leaks aimed at hamstringing the new administration's every effort was unprecedented in scope and viciousness.

However, leaking was not the half of it. Key administration insiders — disloyal Trump appointees as well as Obama holdovers — worked overtime to sabotage the Trump agenda, and *boasted* about it. The handprints of the Council on Foreign Relations are all over this treason. Max Boot, CFR senior fellow and *Washington Post* col-

AP Images

Ominous beginnings: General William "Wild Bill" Donovan, an early member of the Council on Foreign Relations, was tapped during World War II to head the Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the CIA.

CFR

The importance of the intelligence community to the schemes of the Deep State is plainly obvious from the remarkable extent to which its agencies have been staffed with chiefs who are members of the Council on Foreign Relations. This is especially true regarding the CIA, where, with the exception of the Trump administration, we have seen a virtual lock-hold by the CFR. It began in World War II with the CIA's precursor, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), which was run by CFR member William "Wild Bill" Donovan, a Wall Street lawyer, J.P. Morgan agent, and Rockefeller Foundation apparatchik. As with the State Department, Treasury Department, Federal Reserve Board, and Defense Department, we have seen an almost unbroken line of CFR globalists appointed to head these key institutions. From OSS's Donovan to current CIA chief William J. Burns, the CIA has been under virtually continuous control of directors and their minions who are CFR operatives. Listed below are the CFR members who have served as OSS-CIA director.

- General William "Wild Bill" Donovan
- General Walter Bedell Smith
- Allen W. Dulles
- John A. McCone
- Richard M. Helms
- James R. Schlesinger
- William E. Colby
- George H.W. Bush
- Admiral Stansfield Turner
- William J. Casey
- William H. Webster
- Robert M. Gates
- R. James Woolsey
- John M. Deutch
- George J. Tenet
- General Michael V. Hayden
- General David Petraeus
- William J. Burns

umnist, provided a prime example of this in a December 18, 2017 article for the CFR's website in which he gloats that his fellow "Deep State" CFR members are sabotaging the Trump administration's nationalist "America First" agenda. Even though other media elites scorn the term "Deep State" as a right-wing conspiracy theory, Boot, a Never-Trump "Republican," not only acknowledges that it exists, but celebrates it. Boot's article concerned President Trump's first National Security Strategy (NSS) report, with which Boot found fault on multiple points. However, in the main, "the NSS, as written, is mostly fine," he said, an evaluation that undoubtedly surprised many readers. In fact, he said, "In many places it is better than fine." How so? According to Boot, the NSS is surprisingly internationalist in perspective, and, as such, is "at odds with what the president himself believes." Said the CFR doyen: "It might best be understood as a cri du coeur [cry of the heart] from inside the Deep State signaling to the outside world that Trumpian thinking has not entirely taken over the U.S. government, and that some influential public servants remain dedicated to the vision of U.S. global leadership enunciated after World War II."

Boot singled out for praise National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster and his assistant Nadia Schadlow, the reputed authors of the NSS. Both are CFR members. Boot continued, "They have tried to smuggle as much of their own foreign policy thinking into the NSS as possible while still paying ritual obeisance to Trump's America First rhetoric." Of course, it is the CFR's thinking, not merely their own, that they smuggled into the Trump NSS. Fortunately, President Trump got rid of both McMaster and Schadlow, but plenty of globalist swamp creatures remained.

On September 5, 2018, *The New York Times* published an anonymously authored article entitled "I Am Part of the Resistance Inside the Trump Administration." The article's subtitle boasted of the author's subversive efforts: "I work for the president but like-minded colleagues and I have vowed to thwart parts of his agenda and his worst inclinations." More than two years later, the anonymous author resigned his position in the federal government and revealed himself to be Miles Taylor, chief of staff at DHS. Taylor's treachery was rewarded with a lucrative book deal, CFR membership, writing gigs for *The Washington Post* and Medium, and being named to head national security for Google. The damage to our national security, national unity, and constitutional stability caused by thousands of sanctimonious subversives such as Miles Taylor is incalculable.

One of the most breathtaking admissions of the depth and breadth of the Deep State takeover of our country is Molly Ball's article, "The Secret History of the Shadow Campaign That Saved the 2020 Election," for *Time* magazine on February 4, 2021. Ball admitted that "Trump was right" about a high-level cabal plotting to oust him in the just-concluded Trump-vs-Biden 2020 election. "There was a conspiracy unfolding behind the scenes, one that both curtailed the protests and coordinated the resistance from CEOs," Ball wrote. "Both surprises were the result of an informal alliance between left-wing activists and business titans." She gloated about the effectiveness of "a well-funded cabal of powerful people, ranging across industries and ideologies, working together behind the scenes to influence perceptions, change rules and laws, steer media coverage and control the flow of information." The globalists of Big Business, Big Labor, Big Pharma Big Tech, and Big Media poured hundreds of millions of dollars into Astro-Turf campaign activist groups and campaign disinformation ads.

Yes, this "conspiracy," this "cabal" — *Time* magazine's words — "saved" the election. But it didn't save it for us, the American people; it saved it for the globalist elites who are committed to destroying what remains of our constitutional republic and our Christian-style civilization, to be replaced — they hope — with their godless New World Order. ■

AP Images

Treachery rewarded: While Donald Trump, Michael Flynn, and other Trump loyalists are framed and relentlessly prosecuted, real criminals such as former FBI agent Peter Strzok have been given a free pass and rewarded with media gigs.

THE "INTEL COMMUNITY"
JOINS THE MSM TRUMP DERANGEMENT CHOIR

Michael Hayden
AP Images

Dr. John A. Gentry, a former CIA analyst and currently a professor of security studies at Georgetown University, says the partisan attacks and anti-Trump vitriol coming from the intelligence community (IC) over the past several years is unprecedented and in complete violation of the norms of conduct expected of intelligence professionals. Like members of the military services, members of the intelligence community are expected to maintain an apolitical stance publicly. However, from top IC leaders — Brennan, Clapper, Comey, and Hayden — on down to mid-level officials and rank-and-file agents and analysts, the intelligence community has been politicized and weaponized, with IC members (both retired and active) turning into militant activists.

"The attacks on Trump were unprecedented in their substance, tone and volume," Gentry wrote in the *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*. "Critics went far beyond trying to correct Trump's misstatements about U.S. intelligence; they attacked him as a human being." Professor Gentry views this development as "an astonishing reversal of the longstanding norm at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and elsewhere in the U.S. intelligence community that professional intelligence officers served all presidents as well as possible in apolitical ways, no matter the personal politics of intelligence officers or presidents' views of intelligence."

Also unprecedented is the massive flood of personnel from the various intelligence agencies into establishment media organizations, as contract employees and/or frequent guests, where they can be depended on not only to spew a steady stream of anti-Trump invective, but also to promote the globalist "woke" agenda on climate change, LGBTQ issues, Covid mandates, critical race theory, etc. In short, they are at war with the America they claim to serve.

Among those in this subversive media/intelligence industrial complex are:

General Michael V. Hayden (CFR): former director of the CIA and NSA; on advisory board of NewsGuard

John Brennan: former CIA director; NBC-MSNBC commentator

James Clapper: former director of national intelligence; CNN analyst

Juliette M. Kayyem (CFR): former DHS assistant secretary; CNN analyst and weekly guest on Boston Public Radio

Miles Taylor (CFR): former DHS chief of staff; CNN contributor, head of national security for Google

John Schindler: former NSA analyst; writer for the *New York Observer,* CNN guest analyst

Michael Morell: former CIA deputy director; CBS analyst, *Washington Post* columnist, guest on many media platforms

Philip Mudd: former CIA/FBI agent; CNN analyst

Cindy Otis: former CIA analyst; CNN commentator

Frank Figliuzzi: former FBI assistant director for counterintelligence; NBC-MSNBC analyst

Lisa Page: former FBI lawyer; NBC-MSNBC analyst

Peter Strzok: former FBI deputy assistant director; CNN analyst

Andrew Weissmann: former DOJ prosecutor and Robert Mueller team member; NBC-MSNBC analyst

Susan Hennessey: former NSA lawyer; CNN contributor

Asha Rangappa: former FBI special agent; CNN analyst

John Sipher: former CIA senior officer; media gadfly on PBS, NBC, CNN, and others

Clint Watts: former FBI special agent; consultant and contributor to MSNBC

Jeremy Bash: former CIA chief of staff; analyst for NBC and MSNBC

Josh Campbell: former FBI special agent; CNN analyst

Nada Bakos: former CIA analyst; guest commentator at ABC, BBC, CNN, MSNBC, and *The New York Times*

Jeff Asher: former CIA analyst; guest commentator on CNN

In addition to those listed above, there is a host of woke former intel and military insiders whom the Fake News media love to quote, cite, interview, or ask to write op-eds, such as Gregory Treverton (CFR), former chair of the U.S. National Intelligence Council; Jami Miscik (CFR), former CIA deputy director; Admiral William McRaven (CFR), former commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM); General John R. Allen (CFR), former commander of the NATO and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan; Joan Dempsey, former CIA deputy director; Nick Shapiro, former CIA deputy chief of staff; General Merrill McPeak (CFR), former Air Force chief of staff; and many more. ■

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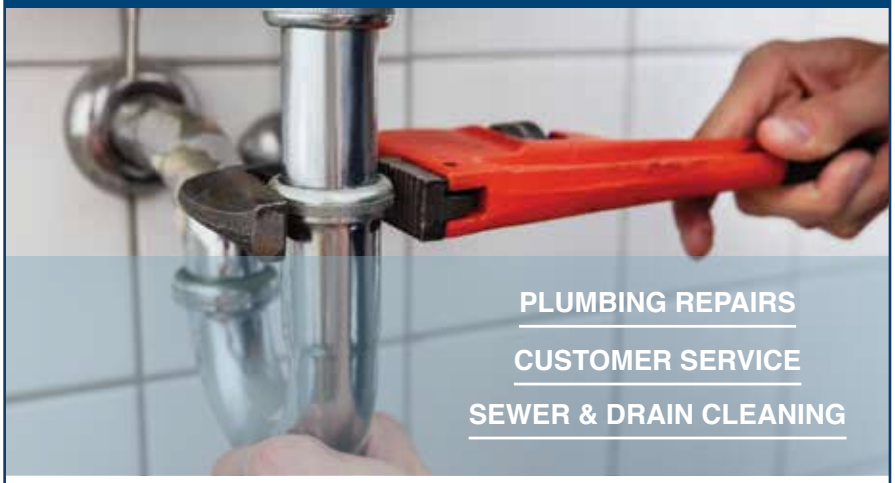

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BIG TECH & THE SURVEILLANCE STATE

Tech titans Peter Thiel (a "conservative Republican") and Eric Schmidt (a liberal-left Democrat) epitomize the marriage of Big Tech to Big Brother.

gorodenkoff/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Omnipresent surveillance: Before George Orwell's *1984*, philosopher Jeremy Bentham proposed the "panopticon" for perpetual monitoring of prisoners. We are rapidly approaching a New World Order in which globalists would make all of us prisoners in a panopticon.

by William F. Jasper

"Sauron has regained much of his former strength…. Concealed within in his fortress, the Lord of Mordor sees all. His gaze pierces cloud, shadow, earth, and flesh. You know of what I speak: a great eye, lidless, wreathed in flame."

"The Eye of Sauron."

"He is gathering all evil to him. Very soon he will have summoned an army great enough to launch an assault upon Middle Earth."

"You know this? How?"

"I have seen it."

So spoke Saruman — the sellout wizard who betrayed Middle Earth and joined forces with the evil Lord Sauron — to Gandalf in Peter Jackson's film adaptation of JRR Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*. By what means did Saruman "see" the growing power of Sauron? He possessed a *palantír,* one of the ancient "seeing stones" that enabled users to see things from afar.

Like Saruman, the sellouts of our civilization have their own *palantír*. Palantir Technologies was launched in 2003 as a joint venture of billionaire techie Peter Thiel (of PayPal and Facebook fortunes) and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Thiel chipped in $30 million and the CIA, operating through its venture-capital arm In-Q-Tel, reportedly put up $2 million. If you didn't know the CIA was in the venture-capital business, you're not alone. Probably few Americans are aware that the CIA has an outfit called In-Q-Tel, and fewer still realize it has been very busy financing tech startups with tax dollars for more than two decades.

But the $2 million In-Q-Tel invested in Palantir is only part of the Thiel-CIA story. The mega-rich Thiel, quite obviously, did not need In-Q-Tel's relatively paltry sum of taxpayer money. No, the partnership involved much more than that. As to be expected, the details are spy-world murky, but the deal involved close collaboration between Palantir's Palo Alto geeks and Langley's scientists, spooks, and technicians. The CIA collaboration and imprimatur has been more important than the In-Q-Tel cash infusion. An investment by the CIA is viewed by many venture capitalists as a good indicator that the new startup has an open pathway to government contracts and, hence, a steady (and expanding) revenue stream. Every dollar In-Q-Tel invests in a company is seen as a stamp of approval that can be counted on to bring in another $12 to $15 from other venture capitalists, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Black Ops Cash and Control

During its early years, the CIA was not only Palantir's patron, but its only customer. With the CIA's help, however, Palantir's investor pool swelled dramatically. It has catapulted to the top of the artificial intelligence (AI) dogpile, particularly as it pertains to the type of massive data mining necessary for the Orwellian total surveillance state. You know, such as the one they have in Communist China, with their omnipresent video cameras and microphones for their social-credit system. But the Palantir-CIA brand appears to be far more sophisticated — and therefore, could become even more intru-

sive and oppressive — than the Chi-Com system.

This is especially concerning since Palantir's customer base now includes major intelligence, military, police, commercial, medical, and financial organizations: CIA, FBI, DIA, NSA, DHS, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Space Force, federal Department of Health and Human Services, New York Police Department, Los Angeles Police Department, New Orleans Police Department, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Morgan Stanley, Merck, Airbus, Fiat Chrysler, and more.

Palantir hasn't revealed how many police departments are using its software and services, but the number is believed to be at least in the dozens, if not hundreds. Some local law-enforcement organizations (LEOs) undoubtedly are using Palantir inadvertently and unknowingly, since federally run fusion centers, such as the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center, use Palantir software and provide information (and fedgov propaganda) to local LEOs.

In its marketing outreach to police departments, Palantir boasts that its software enables the NYPD to search 500 million license-plate photos in less than five seconds. Palantir allegedly was used to track down Osama bin Laden and to expose and convict Bernie Madoff, but those widely cited claims have not been corroborated. "With Palantir, investigators are uncovering human trafficking rings, finding exploited children, and unraveling complex financial crimes," Palantir's website says. "Humanitarian response organizations are directing resources more effectively to communities affected by natural disasters," the promo continues. "Prosecutors are building stronger cases against insider traders. Public health officials are tracking and containing the spread of deadly diseases."

Trojan Horse

Palantir and In-Q-Tel would like to conjure up images of the popular CBS series *Person of Interest* (2011-2016), starring Jim Caviezel as a former CIA agent who has teamed up with a reclusive tech mogul using Palantir-type technology to foil, capture, or kill assorted baddies. However, the technology is a double-edged sword that can — and invariably will — be used *by* baddies against the innocent.

AP Images

Conservative libertarian? Billionaire tech mogul Peter Thiel has bought his way into GOP politics as a major party funder, but his Palantir ties to the CIA and Big Government surveillance and his promotion of the LGBTQ agenda should cause MAGA Republicans and all liberty-minded Americans serious concerns.

Surely, though, this technology is safe in the hands of Peter Thiel, right? After all, he is an outspoken "conservative libertarian," a free-market entrepreneur, a stalwart advocate of privacy and free speech, a critic of woke corporatism, a foe of cultural Marxism and political correctness, an opponent of government subsidies, and a proponent of more limited government. At least that is his public persona. But how does this public persona mesh with reality? In reality, much (perhaps most) of Thiel's vast fortune is connected to government contracts and subsidies.

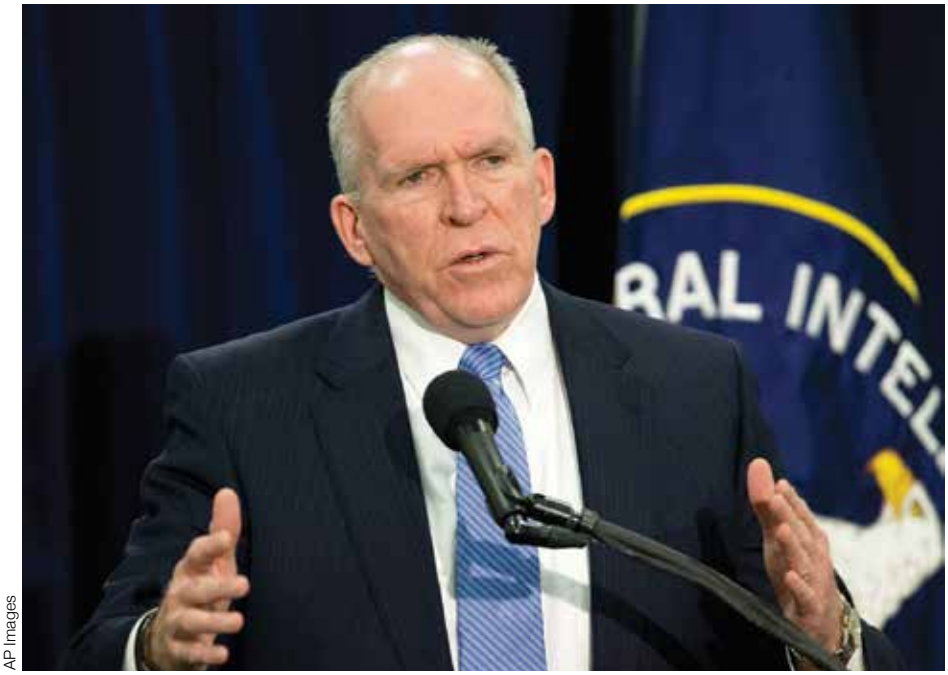
Last year Thiel joined fellow billionaire and former Google CEO Eric Schmidt in founding a grift called America's Frontier Fund (AFF) to lobby the federal and state governments for billions of taxpayer dollars for a massive program for advanced semiconductor design and manufacture. The man Thiel and Schmidt hired as CEO to head up this venture is Gilman Louie, who, significantly, was the same guy the CIA hired as the founding CEO of In-Q-Tel. Louie also happens to be a member of that globalist cabal known as the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the public face of the Deep State.

Schmidt, a megadonor to the Obama-Clinton-Biden campaigns, seems to be following the path blazed by Bill Gates of buying his way into setting government policy, as, for instance, his funding of Biden's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). He also, according to *Politico*, placed more than a dozen of his associates into Biden's White House staff. Schmidt and Thiel are both members of the Steering Committee of the Bilderberg Group, the ultra-secretive coterie of elite globalists obsessed with imposing their New World Order on humanity. Both Thiel and Schmidt were also brought up and promoted through the Young Global Leaders program of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The lobbying effort by Team Thiel-Schmidt and their billionaire tech bros is paying off. Last August, President Biden signed into law the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 to appropriate $52 billion to support semiconductor research and manufacturing. On April 25, 2023, the Biden Commerce Department announced plans to spend $11 billion of that sum for a National Semiconductor Technology Center. ■

DEEP STATE'S EMBEDDED REDS

From its founding as the OSS, the CIA's CFR leaders have recruited and promoted known communist agents, and have protected them from investigation and prosecution.



AP Images

Habitual liar: Before joining the CIA and rising to be its director, John Brennan voted for Communist Party chief Gus Hall, a Stalinist, to be president of the United States — then later lied about it, and still later boasted about lying about it. He also repeatedly committed perjury, an imprisonable offense.

by William F. Jasper

It was a jaw-dropping double admission by one of the most powerful men in the world, but one that was mostly ignored by the usual culprits in the major media. During a panel discussion at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's annual conference in 2016, CIA Director John Brennan proudly confessed that in 1976 he had voted for Gus Hall, chairman of the Communist Party (CPUSA), to be president of the United States. He followed that up by confessing that he lied (by way of evasion) about his communist ties when he took his polygraph test while applying for a job with the CIA. Historical note: Gus Hall and the CPUSA received 58,709 votes in 1976, a mere 0.07 percent of the national total.

Gus Hall was well known as a hard-line Stalinist and universally recognized as the paid stooge of and propagandist for Soviet Russia. But Brennan, our future CIA chief, was one of the less than one tenth of one percent of U.S. voters who saw "the need for change" (as he said), and so pulled the lever for Comrade Hall. And then lied about it. Lying and deception are expected of communists; it's part of the job description. It seems to be habitual with Brennan, who has been caught flat-out lying multiple times, including under oath (which is perjury, a felony), including with regard to illegally bugging the U.S. Senate; denying that U.S. drone attacks had killed civilians; and denying knowledge that the anti-Trump Steele Dossier (which we now know was Russian disinformation) was commissioned and paid for by the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign.

One of Brennan's biggest deceptions was the gambit he pulled off with Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and FBI Director James Comey (who seem to be as accomplished at lying/perjury as Brennan) known as the January 6, 2017 Intelligence Community Assessment (ICA) on Russian Interference in the 2016 elections. You know the story, as it was repeated endlessly in the media: Experts from all 17 agencies of the intelligence community had concluded that Russian President Vladimir Putin had ordered an election-influence campaign to help Donald Trump and hurt Hillary Clinton. That was the sensational claim, but no substantiating evidence was provided because it was a lie — on multiple levels. Clapper later admitted in Senate hearings that the ICA was rush-ordered by President Obama, violated ICA protocols, did not allow dissenting views, and involved only a small group of "hand-picked" (his words) analysts from the CIA, FBI, and NSA, *not all 17 agencies of the intelligence community*. But it was used over and over again by the Democrats and the media to justify the years-long "Russia, Russia, Russia" witch hunts that hobbled the Trump administration.

Like Brennan, James Comey admits to being "left of center" while in college, but said that by 1984, "I'd moved from

AP Images

Globalist brotherhood: Allen W. Dulles (left), the longest-serving CIA director, and brother John Foster Dulles, presidential advisor and secretary of state. John was a founder of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and a delegate, along with Soviet spy Alger Hiss, at the founding of the United Nations. Allen joined the CFR shortly after its founding.

Communist to whatever I am now. I'm not even sure how to characterize myself politically."

Donovan and Dulles Brothers

Over the past century, plenty of communist activists, even high-level Soviet agents and CPUSA leaders, have come to their senses, converted, repented, and become anti-communist patriots: Benjamin Gitlow, Whittaker Chambers, Elizabeth Bentley, Nathaniel Weyl, Hede Massing, Louis Budenz, Hamish Fraser, Bella Dodd, Paul Crouch, Manning Johnson, and Eugene Genovese, to name a few.

But what did Brennan and Comey become after their supposed conversions? Important question, particularly since they were critical players in the coup attempt against Donald Trump, using fake "evidence" from Russian agents to "prove" that Trump, not Clinton, was Putin's preferred candidate. By trying to overthrow the constitutionally elected government of the United States, they certainly violated their oath of office and engaged in treasonous activity.

It will come as a shock to many Americans to learn that the CIA, which we have been taught to believe was our intelligence bulwark against communism during the Cold War, has been heavily penetrated by communist agents from its inception. "Wild Bill Donovan's Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA," writes historian Thomas Fleming in *The New Dealers' War* (2001), "had so many informers in its ranks, it was almost an arm of the NKVD," the precursor of the Soviet KGB. In fact, General William "Wild Bill" Donovan's personal assistant, Duncan Chaplin Lee, was an NKVD agent and a member of the notorious Victor Perlo spy group. Among the identified Soviet agents at the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) were Donald Wheeler, Maurice Halperin, Carl Aldo Marzani, Milton Wolff, George Wuchinich, Henry Brodie, Irving Fajans, David Martin Flax, Joseph Zack Kornfeder, Irving Goff, Joseph Arthur Yager, Vincent Lossowski, and many more.

Donovan's affinity for communists was astonishing. He went so far as to ask Eugene Dennis, then number-two man (and later, number one) in the CPUSA — as well as one of the top Soviet NKVD agents in America — to help him recruit communist agents from the United States and Europe for the OSS. He did the same with Milton Wolff, the CPUSA/NKVD agent who had fought for the communists in Spain. Moreover, he promoted these communists within the OSS and helped place them in the State Department and other federal departments. Donovan even flew to Moscow and offered to set up an office for the mass-murdering NKVD in Washington, D.C., a scheme that was only averted due to ferocious opposition from the FBI's J. Edgar Hoover.

Finally, as reported by Harvey Klehr, John Earl Haynes, and Fridrikh Firsov in *The Secret World of American Communism*, when members of Congress became aware of, and alarmed by, the extent of this subversion, Donovan repeatedly and brazenly lied about it during sworn testimony at congressional hearings, a portent of the recurring deception that would continue up to our present time. Donovan was an archetype of the hundreds of pro-communist, New Deal globalists who populated the prewar, World War II, and post-war periods of the Roosevelt and Truman administrations. Like most of those globalists, he was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), the brain trust that serves as the nerve center of what is now referred to as the Deep State. After the OSS was dissolved following World War II, he helped found the CIA, which invariably has been run by a CFR member (see list on page 15).

Particularly notable is Allen Dulles (OSS and CFR), the CIA's longest-serving director (1953-1961) and brother of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, a co-founder of the CFR. The Dulles brothers, while perennially posing as resolute anti-communists, carried on Donovan's legacy of aiding and promoting communists while sabotaging anti-communists at home and betraying our anti-communist allies abroad. A trustee of the Rockefeller Foundation and chairman of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, John Foster Dulles appointed one of the most notorious American traitors to serve as president of the endowment: Soviet agent Alger Hiss. ■

TRANSGENDER IDEOLOGUES
Crossing the Finish Line

In one of the most irrational manifestations yet of cultural Marxism, biological men masquerading as women are taking over women's athletics — with the full backing of the state.

by Andrew Muller

"Anything boys can do, girls can do better!" Plainly woke, right? Try this one on for size: "Anything girls can do, transgender girls can do better!" As absurd as this sounds, this is precisely the new hypothesis being fleshed out in athletics. Permitting biological men to compete against biological women in sports — and the government's enforcement thereof — is unmitigated relativism, and, ultimately, Marxism.

On February 27, a district court in Minnesota ruled in favor of JayCee Cooper against USA Powerlifting (USAPL) after a discrimination case by Cooper was brought against the athletic organization for prohibiting him from competing. Cooper — a transgender female, or, factually speaking, a male — filed suit against USAPL stating that his inability to contend against biological women was sex and sexual-orientation discrimination on the accounts of public accommodation, business, and aiding and abetting violations of the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

The Minnesota legislation, which was the basis for Cooper's case, "prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education, credit, and business based on protected class, such as: race, religion, disability, national origin, sex, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity."

Minnesota 2nd District Judge Patrick Diamond ruled that USA Powerlifting must "cease and desist from all unfair discriminatory practices." This spurred pushback from many, including Elon Musk, who tweeted, "This is extremely unfair to anyone with XX chromosomes!" ESPN's Sage Steel responded to Musk's post, saying, "Yes. Unfair to women. And the irony of this decision being made during Women's History Month...The hypocrisy continues..."

The judiciary in America has become a spurious, unconstitutional legislative arm of government, forcing relativism on all aspects of life. This is a mammoth-sized deviation from our Founders' vision. America should not allow big government to force private organizations to have men compete in women's sports. It is vile, anti-woman, and dangerous for female athletes.

twitter.com/jayceeisalive

Girl power? JayCee Cooper, a biological male who identifies as a woman, will now be able to compete in powerlifting competitions against women. Many see this as unfair to biological females.

Furthermore, it undermines basic Western Judeo-Christian values such as individuality, family, traditional marriage, and males and females made in the image of their Creator — deriving their rights from God rather than government. Allowing men to compete in women's sports is, to put it bluntly, Marxist. And it plays into a larger strategy to overthrow Western culture.

In America today, activist judges want to legislate from the bench and enforce wokeism on everything the sun touches. Judge Diamond wrote in the ruling, "As it relates to public ac-

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commodation … it is unlawful discrimination to deny a person the 'full and equal enjoyment' of the public accommodation (the public accommodation being full participation in USAPL sanctioned or hosted activities). For both the public accommodation and the business claim, segregation and separation are the hallmarks of discrimination."

In giving men the "full and equal enjoyment" of dominating women's sports, authoritarians are stripping women of their full and equal enjoyment within a private association. They are discriminating against them in a way that is brutal and harmful. Ideas have consequences. Bad ideas have victims.

An excellent example of how anti-woman the enforcement of gender dysphoria in sports can be is a 2014 MMA fight in which Fallon Fox — a male masquerading as a female — broke the skull of bona fide female fighter Tamikka Brents, giving her a concussion and breaking seven orbital bones. Brents candidly declared in an interview, "I've fought a lot of women and have never felt the strength that I felt in a fight as I did that night…. I've never felt so overpowered ever in my life and I am an abnormally strong female in my own right."

Another memorable illustration is the case of Lia Thomas, who in 2022 was the first transgender athlete to win the NCAA 500-yard freestyle female swim in 2022. Thomas, yet another biological male pretending to be a female, dominated the race, even setting a season record within the NCAA for that year.

A self-evident observation in biology is that men have higher bone density, greater muscle mass, broader shoulders, and generally greater strength than women. This is not a new scientific revelation. To fail to recognize this — especially when it comes to combat sports or weightlifting — is an injustice to athleticism and basic human values. This, however, fits perfectly into the anti-truth, anti-West, Marxist playbook. Those familiar with the 1963 congressionally reviewed "45 Declared Goals for the Communist Takeover of America" — originally published in W. Cleon Skousen's book *The Naked Communist* — would recognize this agenda. Goal 26 declares, "Present homosexuality, degeneracy and promiscuity as 'normal, natural, healthy.'" Sound familiar?

Apart from the blatant and self-evident absurdity of allowing a man to lift weights or fight against a woman — and it is difficult to ideate other activities that illustrate the physical differences between men and women better than these — the root question is: Why should the government tell a private association what rules they can and cannot enforce? Courts have accumulated so much power in our nation that they have essentially become an unauthorized, unchecked, unbalanced, and unrestrained third pseudo-chamber of Congress, legislating through setting precedent to enforce their new legislation of liberalism and insanity on everyone else. This gross abuse of power can come from a lack of constitutional literacy. But on issues such as the government forcing transgenderism upon private organizations and coercing society to change and ignore the definitions of gender, it is nothing less than social Marxism.

Back to the case of JayCee Cooper and USAPL. According to the 46-page ruling, "USAPL had a policy, dating from at least as early as 2015, that trans women, that is, women who were identified as male at birth, but who identified as female, were not allowed to compete as female."

The powerlifting association, in an effort to privately accommodate transgender athletes, created a program, enacted on January 1, 2021, called the MX Category, which "provides dedicated competition space for athletes 14 years of age or older of all gender identities." In other words, an area in which transgender, nonbinary, and all other athletes can compete.

"Our position has been aimed at balancing the needs of cis- and transgender women whose capacities differ significantly in purely strength sports," said USA Powerlifting President Larry Maile in a statement. But this effort was not enough. JayCee (and other men who have gender dysphoria) want to compete solely against females as though they, too, have XX chromosomes.

To further the madness, the Minnesota ruling says, "USAPL's evidence of competitive advantage does not take into account any competitive disadvantage a transgender athlete might face from, for example, increased risk of depression and suicide, lack of access to coaching and practice facilities, or other performance suppression common to transgender persons." Furthermore, "Banning transgender people from participating in sports is harmful for their mental health and, in effect, can also cause harm to their physical health." Are legal standards now going

facebook.com/FallonFoxofficial

Crushing strength: MMA fighter Fallon Fox, a biological male, shocked top-ranked female opponents with his strength. Many say that allowing men to compete against women in combat sports is just asking for women to be seriously injured.

AP Images

"Just cruising": Lia Thomas, a male who identifies as a female, bragged about how easy it was to beat female swimmers he competed against, handily setting the NCAA women's 500-meter freestyle record in 2022.

to consider the potential risk of hurt feelings and suicidality if plaintiffs do not get their way? Remember the 45 goals of Communism? Goal 39 states, "Dominate the psychiatric profession and use mental health laws as a means of gaining coercive control over those who oppose Communist goals."

Within the entirety of our culture war, the problem lies much deeper than just the surface-level issue at hand. It is an ever-growing attack on the worldview that built Western society. That worldview declares, "God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." If the demagogues can seize this most rudimentary idea, they can seize the whole of American liberty, which is rooted in the foundational principle of individuality.

And if you speak out against the transgender ideologues, you better watch out lest you be deemed in favor of a pogrom. That is precisely what happened to conservative political commentator Michael Knowles as a result of his CPAC speech on March 4, 2023. "For the good of society," said Knowles, "transgenderism must be eradicated from public life entirely — the whole preposterous ideology, at every level." *Rolling Stone,* in a libelous headline, reported, "Michael Knowles Says Transgender Community Must Be 'Eradicated' at CPAC."

The absurdity of this knee-jerk reaction is that no one can actually call for the genocide of the transgender community. Being "transgender" is not a legitimate classification. There is no such thing as a "transgender" person, any more than there are minotaurs or the Loch Ness monster. There are people with so-called gender dysphoria, no doubt. But said individuals will always and forever either be biologically male or biologically female. They cannot transition into a different sex.

One of the most alarming outcomes of the transgender, anti-truth movement is how quickly the medical community has come out in support of sex-change surgeries, hormone treatments, and the sterilization of children in the name of supporting "their truth."

In February 2023, Jamie Reed, a St. Louis resident and former case manager at the Washington University Transgender Center at St. Louis Children's Hospital, released a grisly whistleblower report. Reed exposed how hospitals are capriciously diagnosing, treating, and recommending young children with gender dysphoria to alter their bodies permanently and irreversibly.

"The center's working assumption was that the earlier you treat kids with gender dysphoria, the more anguish you can prevent later on," Reed said. "This premise was shared by the center's doctors and therapists…. I left the clinic … because I could no longer participate in what was happening there. By the time I departed, I was certain that the way the American medical system is treating these patients is the opposite of the promise we make to 'do no harm.' Instead, we are permanently harming the vulnerable patients in our care."

The evil behind the push for men in women's sports is just the beginning of a broader Marxist movement to abolish the principle of absolute truth and corrupt the hearts, minds, and bodies of all people — including children. It is evil, it requires our attention and response, and it must be stopped.

One cannot help but feel that the present psychosis of the times is likened to some warped version of a 19th-century Emily Dickinson stanza:

Much Madness is divinest Sense
To a discerning Eye
Much Sense - the starkest Madness
'Tis the Majority
In this, as all, prevail
Assent - and you are sane
Demur - you're straightway dangerous
And handled with a Chain

Join the mob in its madness and be enlightened. Join the horde in declaring a man can be a woman and a woman can be a man. Assent and be sensible. But to dissent, to claim that men are men and women are women, you are nothing but destructive and an ally to iniquity. This is a reflection of the foolishness of our times.

If freedom-loving, truth-believing, fair, and honest people cannot win the battle in keeping women's sports strictly for women, how can we expect to win the culture war in government, academia, media, business, and Big Tech? This is a hill worth dying on, because if the Marxists can overthrow sports and redefine what a woman is, they can seize, control, and plunder our most sacred liberties. Let's play to win. ■

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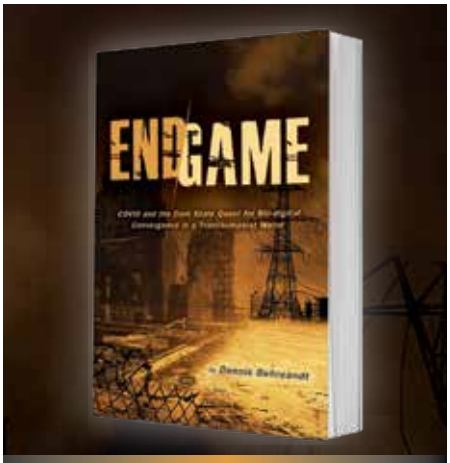

by Dennis Behreandt

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The John Birch Society
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The John Birch Society Is Still Winning Big

The John Birch Society continues to be the object of a left-wing smear campaign — because of its long track record of exposing the radical Left's nefarious agenda.

by Paul Dragu

On March 16, leftist propaganda organ *The Atlantic* magazine published a piece titled "How Far-Right Movements Die" smearing The John Birch Society, the parent organization of this magazine.

In addition to its erroneous premise, this terrific amalgamation of drivel slammed the JBS for our past opposition to mass water fluoridation. (Ironically, *The Atlantic* published this article just one day after the release of a report that indicated fluoride damages the fragile, developing brains of children — more on that below.)

"Many Birchers promoted baseless conspiracy theories — fluoridation in the water supply represented, as one Bircher document charged, 'a massive wedge for socialized medicine,'" the *Atlantic* wrote.

Paul Dragu is the communications director for The John Birch Society and host of The New American TV *daily show.*

The JBS opposes mass fluoridation largely on the premise that government has no business imposing mass medication onto its citizens, no matter how benevolent our aspiring masters believe they are being. *American Opinion* magazine, the predecessor to *The New American*, reported in its September 1958 issue that "[Fluoridation] is socialized medicine in an area of health where the allegedly preventive fluorides are readily available in tablet form."

We also reported that, despite a propaganda narrative saying the opposite, approved expert consensus on mass fluoridation did not exist. Also from the 1958 issue:

> The unassailable fact is that fluoridation is a highly controversial and potentially very dangerous program. It forces all the people in the community to absorb into their systems small daily doses of a deadly poison so that the teeth only of children in a certain age bracket may allegedly be helped. There are eminent authorities, including physicians and dentists and entire medical groups, who categorically reject the program as harmful or, at least, as not proved safe.

Four years later, *American Opinion's* May 1962 edition published a piece titled "The Real Issue Behind Fluoridation," in which, again, we reiterated that "like socialized medicine, fluoridation is one more example of creeping collectivism." We also pointed out that the American Medical Association admitted there was no way to know how much fluoride is enough to cause harm, in addition to more arguments showing the flaws in the consensus argument.

About six years later, March 1968's *American Opinion* ran a fluoridation article that looked at some of the results of the fluoridation campaign. By then, fluoride was flowing through the bodies

of tens of millions of Americans. Yet we remained obstinately steadfast in our position. Here's author David O. Woodbury, an MIT graduate, reporting for *American Opinion*:

> Yet this fluoride, inserted virtually by government edict into drinking water, in the proportion of 1.2 parts per million (ppm), is declared by the U.S. Public Health Service to be "utterly safe." Every chemist knows that such utter safety is at best illusory. Nowhere is fluorine safe; nowhere is it required by nature in living things ... though plants, animals, and people collect it willy-nilly, and suffer the consequences of the disease called "fluorosis." Doctors and scientists have always distrusted fluorine — it is a poison (try and buy some at a drug store). Until 1940 the Public Health Service warned against water contaminated with it.

Woodbury also showed how the fluoride narrative was rigged to broadcast advocates and silence dissenters. One example he cited was the American Medical Association's refusal to publish technical articles by those opposed to fluoridation. "Grant money poured from company coffers upon scientists who saw the light, but was carefully denied those who didn't," Woodbury reported. He also named several credible experts who, "ducking brick bats and invective," never caved to the pressure and rewards of joining the approved narrative. One of those experts, a Detroit-based allergist named G.L. Waldbott, worried that available data indicated a higher rate of babies being born with Down syndrome in higher fluoridated areas, "demonstrating a good tie-up between fluorine and such mental retardation."

Now, let's see how baseless our conspiracy theories were.

The day before *The Atlantic* published its hard-hitting piece of journalism on the JBS, the National Toxicology Program (NTP) released a draft report linking prenatal and childhood fluoride exposure to reduced IQ in children. According to the report, eight of the nine "high-quality studies examining cognitive or neurodevelopmental outcomes reported associations with fluoride exposure." Furthermore, "There is, however, a large body of evidence on IQ effects in children. There is also some evidence that fluoride exposure is associated with other neurodevelopmental and cognitive effects in children."

The draft report almost never saw the light of day. According to reporting by Children's Health Defense on March 16, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initially blocked the NTP from releasing the report, according to emails obtained via a Freedom of Information Act request. Thankfully, Food and Water Watch sued the Environmental Protection Agency and prevailed, allowing its release.

There are many striking similarities between the fluoridation and Covid-19 vaccination campaigns. In both cases, the World Health Organization was involved with American medical authorities in imposing a preventive "medicine" on the population. In both cases, many people objected to the program on the basis that it was an example of mandatory socialized medicine and that the "medicine" was toxic and unnecessary. In both cases, the medical authorities and other establishment entities, especially corporate media, assured people that the "medicine" was safe and effective. In both cases, the establishment worked to silence and censor dissident voices and studies that discredited the approved narrative. And in both cases, the establishment narrative is being increasingly discredited.

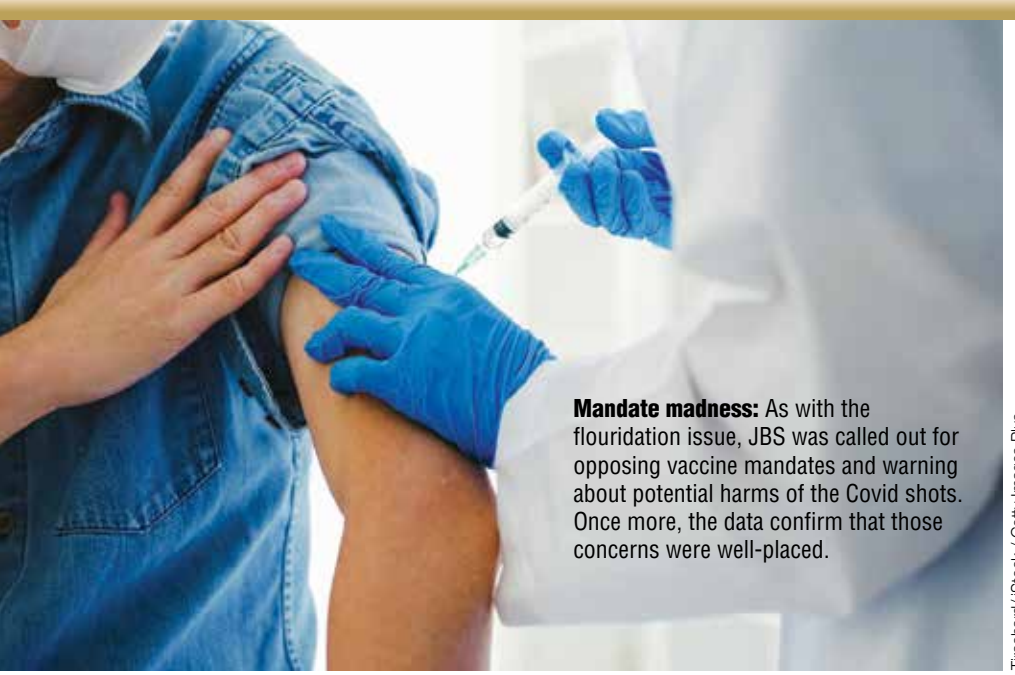
A few days after the *Atlantic* piece was published, *The Guardian* also published a story regarding the Society titled "Birchers review: how the Republican far right gave us Trump and DeSantis." It too mentioned our opposition to fluoridation, although it wasn't the main premise of the article. A second round of mainstream articles mentioning the JBS included a Vox story and an MSNBC segment.

These recent stories are connected to the release of a book titled *Birchers: How the John Birch Society Radicalized the American Right*, by Matthew Dallek.

Mainstream media bringing up JBS's opposition to fluoride is not a recent

Liudmila Chernetska/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Water rights: The John Birch Society was roundly criticized for opposing flouridation of municipal water supplies, mainly on freedom-of-choice and health grounds. New data reveal that concerns about the negative effects of flouride are not unfounded.



Mandate madness: As with the flouridation issue, JBS was called out for opposing vaccine mandates and warning about potential harms of the Covid shots. Once more, the data confirm that those concerns were well-placed.

Tirachard/iStock / Getty Images Plus

trend. It has been happening for decades, part of a strategy to paint us as crackpots and kooky conspiracy theorists. But this strategy depends on a gullible audience, which is proving increasingly difficult to find.

As for the new old news on fluoridation, notch another one in "The Birchers Were Right" column. Over the last year, I've written at length about the various warnings and stances we've taken that earned us the label "kooky," "paranoid," "nutty," and, of course, the smeariest of smears — "conspiratorial" — but turned out to be very credible.

Our major claim to fame — the idea we've gotten the most flak for, the reason the establishment has worked so hard to destroy our organization, going so far as infiltrating and taking unethical, and perhaps even illegal, actions (as described in the *Atlantic* article above) — is that we've been exposing the globalists' plan to impose a tyrannical, one-world government.

Dallek, in a March 21 interview on MSNBC's *Morning Joe* show, sang in unison with co-host Joe Scarborough about JBS's radicalness and our nutty and confusing conspiracy theories. "So we fought a war against communism for a generation, we beat them, they're in total collapse, but somehow we're conspiring with the Communists?" Scarborough asked in feigned confusion. Scarborough and Dallek also implied three times that we believed all the conspiratorial figures were Jewish bankers, an attempt to slyly label us as antisemitic.

For someone who wrote an entire book on us, it's odd that he's so ignorant of our position. We've published books, pamphlets, monthly bulletins, and videos explaining that the communist conspiracy is the militant activism arm of the "Master Conspiracy."

In short, Birchers have exposed the plans of the international insiders to a point that it's become mainstream. That's why they blame us every time another anti-globalist, America First figure becomes wildly popular. We've also organized through local chapters to stop the intentional destruction of the United States by opposing schemes ultimately designed to make local communities less sovereign.

Our books, pamphlets, and magazine have documented the history of the conspiracy and how it works today. And we've correctly predicted numerous events that have, unfortunately, come to pass, the most glaring example being the internationalists' attempt to use Covid-19 as an excuse to install a one-world government system. Today anyone with a pulse who hasn't been brainwashed of any semblance of sense can see what is happening. The collaborative global Covid-19 tyranny campaign opened the eyes of many. It brought attention to people and organizations who have been working toward a New World Order for decades, including the World Economic Forum's You-Will-Own-Nothing-and-Like-It crowd.

The *Guardian* piece ends with the line, "The John Birch Society is still winning big." These folks look at the American political landscape and they see "radicalism" taking over the Right. And they blame us for it. And we'll certainly take some of the credit. We actually make this case in our *BiRCH'N* booklet — the case that rising resistance to globalism is in part thanks to 65 years of JBS member activism. We also take partial credit for creating an America First voting block powerful enough to elect Donald Trump, who, despite his checkered past and many personality faults and foibles, was a stick in the spokes of the New World Order wheel.

The establishment's radicalism is our Americanism. Their "isolationism" is our adherence to the Founders' position that America shouldn't get involved in foreign entanglements. Their conspiracy theories are our blowing the whistle on the nefarious scheme to enslave all humanity.

The media's tired pejoratives are now meaningless. They're empty and weak, because the media have been outed as propagandists parading around in the shabby disguise of journalists. What's so radical about wanting policies that put national sovereignty over globalism? What's so radical about standing up to the degenerate militant LGBTQ lobbies? What is so radical about insisting on thousands of years of established biology? What's so radical about endorsing state over federal government power? What's so radical about working to secure elections and borders? Having medical freedom? Taking the government out of education?

If those ideas are radical, then it sounds like it's time to get radical, America. Be an Americanist — someone who believes we should bring our government back within the restrictions outlined in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Get radically Americanist and join the JBS in the greatest undertaking since the creation of this wonderful nation. It is time to restore our nation to greatness! ■

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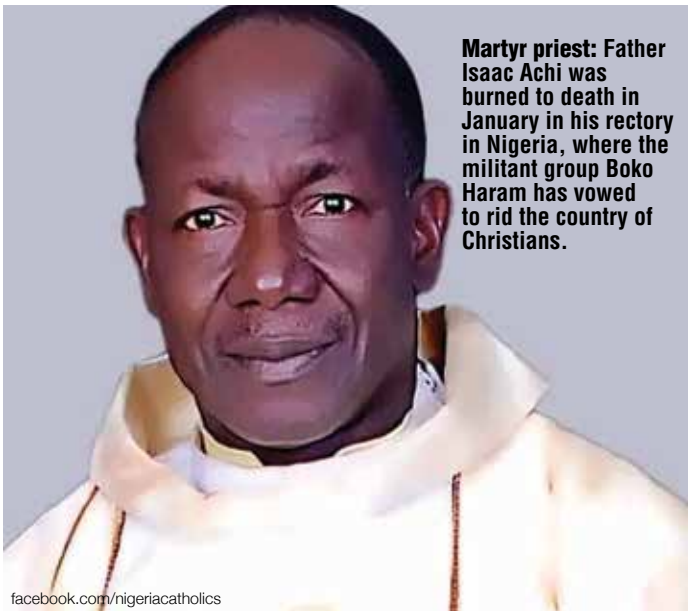
Worldwide Persecution of Christians

by Rebecca Terrell

In the middle of the night, with their rectory under terrorist attack, Catholic priests Isaac Achi and Collins Omeh heard each other's confessions. The two had been awakened at 3:00 a.m. by sounds of assailants trying to break in to their parish residence at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in northern Nigeria. After the absolutions, Father Achi urged his associate pastor to flee.

When the criminals' break-in attempts failed, they set the building ablaze. Father Omeh managed to escape and survived being shot from behind. Unfortunately, Father Achi succumbed to the flames. Emergency crews found his remains among the charred rubble of the building.



Martyr priest: Father Isaac Achi was burned to death in January in his rectory in Nigeria, where the militant group Boko Haram has vowed to rid the country of Christians.

facebook.com/nigeriacatholics

A fellow cleric, Father Ugochukwu Ugwoke, recounted the tragedy on Twitter in January. *Business Day* identified Father Achi as the same priest who escaped a bomb blast on Christmas Day in 2011 at Saint Theresa Catholic Church in Madalla. The explosion killed 44 of his parishioners and left seven others blind.

Father Achi's family told the *Daily Trust* that he had previously survived two other attacks. Kidnappers abducted him during his time in Madalla, and he survived being shot in the jaw when gunmen invaded a house he was visiting "to bless a child during a naming ceremony." The tall priest stood up to the assailants and bore a scar from the bullet for the rest of his life.

The Daily Post quoted the governor of the Nigerian state of Niger, who called January's deadly attack on Father Achi "ungodly and inhumane" and insisted that "drastic action is needed to end this ongoing carnage."

Diabolic Trends

His reference to "ongoing carnage" is no exaggeration. According to research firm SB Morgan Intelligence, gunmen killed 39 Catholic priests in Nigeria last year, while 30 were abducted and held for exorbitant ransoms. Several dozen other clerics survived injuries sustained in attacks.

Yet 2022 was hardly an anomaly. Examples of earlier murders include that of Father Luke Mewhenu Adeleke, gunned down by unknown assailants after he had celebrated Christmas Eve Mass in 2021. Earlier that year, gunmen shot Father Ferdinand Fanen Ngugban in the head as he was preparing for the Easter vigil service. And exactly two years before Father Achi's slaying, killers ambushed Father John Gbakaan near the village of Tufa. He "was executed with a machete in such a brutal and horrific manner that identification was hardly possible," reported Vatican News.

Who is targeting these priests? Local news reports call them "bandits" and "herdsmen" and bemoan failed efforts to apprehend the murderers, though the problem has been worsening.

Western media have been more explicit. Nigeria has been targeted "since 2009 when a Boko Haram insurgency began with the aim of turning the country into an Islamic state," reports the Catholic News Agency (CNA). "Since then, the organization, which is one of the largest Islamic groups in Africa, has orchestrated terrorist attacks on various targets, including religious and political groups as well as civilians."

The U.S. State Department's National Counterterrorism Cen-

Rebecca Terrell is a senior editor of The New American.

ter (NCC) has designated Boko Haram a Foreign Terrorist Organization since 2013, and it is ranked seventh among the "20 Deadliest Terror Groups of 2022" in the Global Terrorism Index published by the think tank Institute for Economics and Peace.

NCC's website identifies the group as claiming solidarity with al-Qaeda and enmity against the United States. The group's name means "Western education is forbidden," and Boko Haram took credit for the 2011 Christmas bombing of Father Achi's church in Madalla.

All Christians — not just Catholic priests — are in the crosshairs of militant jihadist groups such as this. Last year a Muslim mob beat, stoned, and burned alive a young Christian woman outside the security office of her college in Sokoto State for the alleged crime of blasphemy. They posted videos of their brutality on Twitter, and the Nigerian *People's Gazette* confirmed the circumstances of the murder.

Blasphemy was also the excuse for the brutal public lynching of 74-year-old Bridget Agbahime, the wife of a Bible church pastor in Kano City. The state attorney general released the five suspects in the case on grounds of lack of evidence. Nigerian news outlet The Cable complained, "Too often such religious murders occur without diligent prosecution or willingness to tackle them by governments at all levels."

The bad news is that Nigeria is not the worst in terms of persecution of those who follow Christ. It ranks sixth on the World Watch List 2023, a catalog of the "top 50 countries where Christians experience the most persecution." It is published by the nongovernmental organization Open Doors, which dedicates itself to smuggling Bibles into these areas and providing other support for what is reputedly the most oppressed religious group in the contemporary world.

That has been the consensus for years. "The persecution of Christians throughout much of the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia [and] elsewhere is one of the crimes against humanity of our time, and I am appalled at the lack of protest it has evoked," said Lord Jonathan Sacks, a member of the U.K. Parliament and former chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, during 2014 debate in the House of Lords. "What is happening to Christians in these places is the religious equivalent of ethnic cleansing."

All India Christian Council

Unholy persecution: During the summer of 2008, anti-Christian riots in India left nearly 400 churches vandalized or destroyed, and hundreds of people maimed or murdered.

Indeed, a 2015 study by the Catholic campaign group Aid to the Church in Need noted that "Christians are fast disappearing from entire regions — most notably a huge chunk of the Middle East but also whole dioceses in Africa." The research blamed "ethnic cleansing motivated by religious hatred" for changing Christianity from a "global faith to a regional one, with the faithful increasingly absent from ever-widening areas." Likewise, a 2015 Pew Research Center report found that "Christians have been harassed in more countries than any other religious group."

It has only gotten worse since then. In a 2019 address announcing results of a U.K. investigation into the issue, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt noted the ever-growing problem, citing evidence that Christians "endure the heaviest burden of persecution" globally, "believed to be targets of about 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination or persecution." The report warned about "decimation of some of the faith group's oldest and most enduring communities."

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) agrees, calling it a "deeply disturbing" situation. In a *USA Today* op-ed, USCIRF commissioners Jim Carr and Fred Davie quoted statistics from last year's Open Doors World Watch List: "In 2021, over 360 million Christians lived in places where they experienced 'high levels of persecution and discrimination' while 5,898 Christians died for their faith; 6,175 were detained, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned; and 3,829 were abducted."

A decade earlier, in 2011, Pope Benedict XVI had decried similar statistics in his World Peace Day address: "At present, Christians are the religious group which suffers most from persecution on account

of its faith." He called the circumstances an "intolerable" threat to world security, but the only individual country he cited was Iraq, which he called a "theater of violence and strife."

Today, that country comes in at number 18 on Open Doors' tally. Surprisingly, despite China's oppressive surveillance and ever-tightening restrictions on religious freedom, it ranks only 16th on the list. That status even considers watchdog reports that China has been demanding "worship and allegiance" of Xi Jinping and cracking down on Christian websites and apps, as Fox News reported in February.

Occupying Open Doors' top spot is North Korea, where Christians face brutal hostility not from Islamic militants, but from their own government. "If discovered by the authorities, believers are either sent to labour camps as political prisoners where the conditions are atrocious," explains the Open Doors website, "or [they] are killed on the spot — and their families will share their fate as well." The group reports that the situation has gotten worse since passage in 2020 of the country's "anti-reactionary thought law," which outlaws the "importing and distributing of 'impure' foreign" materials, including the Bible and religious literature, according to *Daily NK*.

There are 11 countries that Open Doors classifies as areas of "extreme persecution" for Christians. Along with North Korea and Nigeria, those that earn this shameful designation are Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea, Libya, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Sudan, and India.

twitter.com/HammackMckenna

Religious injustice: A Nigerian Muslim mob murdered Deborah Yabuku Samuel, a Christian, in May of 2022 for supposed blasphemy, broadcasting their crime on social media. Reports say her killers have yet to be brought to justice.

Prohibiting Proselytes

Many more discriminate against Christians in other ways. The U.S. State Department's 2016 International Religious Freedom Report — provided in part to ensure that travelers know what they're walking into — lists 39 countries that completely ban proselytizing, and 28 others that only allow it under strict limitations. That amounts to roughly one-third of the globe wherein talking to others about your religious convictions is banned or restricted and can get you thrown into prison or deported.

"The Pew Research Centre has noted that conversion is now a dangerously contentious issue in India," writes leftist news outlet CounterCurrents.org. "Nine states have enacted laws against proselytism as of early 2021."

It points out that Christianity is one of the only proselytizing religions in the nation. Vigilantes use unproven allegations of conversion activities as an excuse to commit crimes such as arson of churches and schools, physical violence and murder, sexual assaults, and destruction of cemeteries. "Mob crimes are carried out with impunity as the police turn a blind eye," the article protests.

Of course, India ranks high on the World Watch List. Other names on the State Department's Religious Freedom Report are more surprising. Case in point: Israel, where "religious groups may proselytize on the condition that the individual is at least 18 years of age, and no material benefits are offered," explains Open Doors.

That law has long been a point of contention for groups such as the Beit Hillel Congregation, Messianic Jews who worship in the immigrant-heavy coastal city of Ashdod. In 2019 Israel National News accused the organization of "deceptive missionary practices" in handing out gift boxes to local children. And *Israel Today* reported that authorities arrested a Christian missionary in February 2021 for giving a religious pamphlet to a six-year-old.

It's odd pushback to encounter in the place where Jesus was born and raised, where He preached and died, and where the 1948 Israeli Declaration of Independence declares: "Israel will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture."

Yet earlier this year two influential members of the Israeli Parliament proposed legislation that would outlaw evangelism and send violators to prison. In their official explanation of the bill, the sponsors emphasized that they were targeting Christians, and Joe Rosenberg of *All Israel News* wrote that the measure had strong support in Parliament. Aggressive objections from evangelical Christians — who are some of the biggest supporters of Israel worldwide — prompted the sponsors to withdraw their proposal for the time being.

Adding insult to injury, earlier this year when a member of Germany's Parliament proposed establishment of an International Day Against the Persecution of Christians, lawmakers not only voted against it, but some also challenged the veracity of claims to Christian persecution worldwide. Opponents alleged that the measure was intended only to stir up hatred of Muslims, and that claims of discrimination merely stem from a supposed persecution complex of Christians living as minorities in Muslim-dominated countries.

But their suffering is real, according to the International Society for Human Rights (which, ironically, is headquartered in Germany), and also according to the World Evangelical Alliance's International Institute for Religious Freedom. Both organizations agree with Open Doors' assessment and caution that the problem is growing.

twitter.com/officialJosh_A/media

Christian crusader: Sixteen-year-old Josh Alexander was arrested at his Catholic high school in Ontario in February for protesting so-called transgender policies promoted there.

Home Turf

Christians who have lived through persecution warn that even the United States is not immune. "The leader of a watchdog group that monitors Christian persecution in China said he's seeing echoes of the Chinese Communist Party 'playbook' in the U.S., and he's worried it'll get worse," reports Fox News.

That watchdog leader is ChinaAid president Bob Fu, whose 2013 book *God's Double Agent* recounts his imprisonment in Beijing for leading "house churches," which are those not registered with the government. He and his wife escaped in 1996, and dedicate their lives to providing legal and humanitarian aid to persecuted Christians.

Fu told Fox that he is "seeing the same tactics in Western nations that the CCP uses to crack down on churches." He cited censorship, intolerance of dissent, and the forcing of "woke" culture, and particularly pointed to political weaponizing of law enforcement as a "worrisome" trend.

"It is very shocking and horrible to see American society's transformation evolving from its constitutional basis," said Fu. "I feel America is descending into a Chinese communist style of governance."

He is justified. Last November, the U.S. military labeled a New Jersey mother of two as a security threat for her social-media posts objecting to sexually explicit posters displayed in her children's elementary school, according to CBN News.

In March, Arizona's Washington Elementary School District severed ties with Arizona Christian University because it deemed the Christian faith of ACU's student-teachers a threat to its LGBTQ students.

Missouri's College of the Ozarks, a Christian school, is taking its case against President Joe Biden to the Supreme Court this year over his administration's ban on "housing discrimination" based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Last fall, FBI agents used long guns and ballistic shields to arrest Mark Houck, a pro-life activist and Catholic father, at his home in front of his terrified wife and seven children. Capitol Hill Republicans have noted the agency's disproportionate lack of interest in locating those who fire-bomb pro-life pregnancy centers, and its labeling of "radical-traditionalist Catholic[s]" as "racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists" in a recently leaked internal memo.

Fu also points a finger of blame at Canada, where authorities clamped down so hard on churches during the pandemic that U.S. Senator Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) has urged USCIRF to add that country to its watch list.

It could be a well-deserved designation, considering that authorities arrested 16-year-old Josh Alexander in February for trespassing at his Catholic high school in Ontario, where he had been suspended for protesting the school's transgender policies. Released to his family, he was arrested two days later for quoting Scripture outside a drag-queen story hour for children at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

"I recognize that our freedom of religion is under attack…. God's natural order is under attack. The family unit in general is being attacked from every angle, and they're starting with the youth," Alexander told CBN News. When asked what the solution is, he responded, "I'm not going to silence myself. We're told to go into the world and preach the gospel, and that's what I'm going to continue to do." ■

Mow It Wells

Alex Wells has been mowing lawns for people in need at no charge, according to this sweet story out of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Local 3 News reported Wells has been mowing lawns for cancer patients, the elderly, single parents, and disabled residents who cannot do it themselves. He looks for overgrown lawns and reaches out.

"If their lawn is overgrown, there's a reason. So I try to find out that story," said Wells, who owns a lawn-care service called "Mow It Wells."

The first time he spotted an overgrown lawn, the homeowner was a cancer patient who lived by herself. When he told her his service was free to her, she cried, and he said it gave him "a really, really good feeling" to be able to help someone.

"The real excitement comes when I do something extra. Sometimes I'll give them a hundred dollars or I'll do mulch or plant some flowers and stuff and that's when it really gets special," Wells told Local 3.

Wells records his acts of kindness and posts the videos on social media and YouTube. He said one video that gave him a bit of notoriety featured him cleaning up the yard of a husband and wife in their 70s after a tornado hit Chattanooga suburb East Brainerd and downed several trees in the yard, rendering them unable to cut the grass.

"I knocked on the door and the guy was like, 'why would you want to do that?' When I told him I was going to do it for free he was skeptical but I did it. It took me four days and that's the video that kind of started it all," said Wells.

Wells has already cut 15 lawns this year, with a goal of mowing 52 lawns "so I can have a video for every week even going through the winter."

Happy to Help

Pat Blake of Davis County, Utah, owns two mobile-home parks, and when she realized that some of her residents were struggling to feed their children, she took action.

The Washington Post reported that Blake has been using her own money to purchase extra groceries and start a food pantry in her office. A friend helped her build shelves in an unused room to stock the items. She told residents they were welcome to simply take what they needed.

"Needing groceries is nothing to be ashamed of," Blake told the *Post*. "We could all use a boost sometimes. These families need someone, and I'm happy that I can be that person to help."

In addition to setting up her own food pantry, Blake contacted the Bountiful Food Pantry, which serves residents in Davis County, and the group now visits her mobile-home parks twice a month to help feed neighbors.

At Christmastime, she also used her own money to purchase presents for the children at her parks, and reportedly also uses her own money to help buy school supplies for the children.

Blake was recently honored with a Fox 13 "Dream Team" surprise after her daughter nominated her.

The surprise included a gift card to her local grocery story so she could purchase more food to fill her pantry, as well as gift cards to her favorite clothing stores and a spa treatment, so she could treat herself.

Easter to Remember

Six-year-old Luke Flerlage helped ensure Easter was very special for the children of O'Fallon, Missouri, this year by collecting 12,221 items for baskets through the Alleluia Baskets program.

Luke has been working with Alleluia Baskets — a nonprofit that "builds community and provides joy" by offering Easter baskets to community members who are at or below the poverty level — alongside his parents since he was three years old, Fox News reported.

Initially, Luke helped his parents assemble baskets, but by the end of his first year volunteering, he was able to start building baskets of his own, Alleluia Baskets founder Karen Mesler said.

In 2022, after Luke launched his own efforts to increase the number of supplies donated to the program, the Flerlage family showed up at the facility with multiple cars worth of toys and gifts for the baskets. But even with such an impressive haul, Luke wanted to do more for this year's Easter.

According to Mesler, Luke told everyone he met that he was collecting items for the baskets. He also teamed up with a friend of the family who owned a pumpkin patch, and proceeds from the patch were used to purchase supplies for this year's baskets.

On March 27, Luke and his family were able to fill an entire box truck with more than 12,000 items, Fox News reported.

Luke continues to raise the bar for himself. He is planning to do even more for the 2024 Easter baskets, with plans to host a kids' trivia night in September, with all of the proceeds being put toward the baskets.

Watch Your Step

Sometimes even just the smallest acts can have big effects. When Tyler Morrell was delivering pizza for Cocco's Pizza Aston, the simple act of sticking out his foot proved to be a big help to a Brookhaven police officer in this story out of Aston, Pennsylvania.

While Morrell was delivering pizza at approximately 3:00 p.m. on April 16, he noticed police vehicles chasing a car, and then the driver of the car jumped out and ran across the street toward Morrell. Morrell ran toward the suspect and stuck out his foot, tripping the man and making it possible for police to capture and arrest him. He did all of this while still holding his pizza, which he later joked was "completely unharmed and enjoyed" by the homeowner.

"Honestly, I didn't really think about doing anything but stepping in. I was raised to step in if you see something that's not right. So, I just wanted to do my part," Morrell said.

The police department was grateful for Morrell's intervention, posting a video of the encounter on social media with a note that said, "Thank you, sir, for the assist!!! If you're interested in a job we are always looking for good people." ■

— Raven Clabough

The Church Committee
The Good and the Bad

The Church Committee of the 1970s, despite its partly leftist pedigree, exposed some of the machinations of what is now called the "Deep State."

by Steve Byas

A new select committee in the House of Representatives, led by Representative Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), was created for the purpose of investigating the "weaponization" of U.S. intelligence agencies for the benefit of the Democratic Party.

Not surprisingly, Democrats and their media allies quickly asserted that this new committee should be compared — unfavorably — with the 1975 United States Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities, better known as the Church Committee after its chairman, Senator Frank Church (D-Idaho).

The first Church Committee is generally held today in high regard, so much so that the Republicans leading the present effort to investigate questionable activities of the U.S. intelligence community have appropriated the name for their own committee. The first Church Committee is credited with forcing reforms on intelligence agencies such as the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the National Security Agency (NSA). Such reforms include the executive order by President Gerald Ford to ban assassinations of foreign political leaders; the creation of a permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in both the House and Senate; and requiring intelligence agencies to seek approval from a special court before surveilling American citizens.

Renato Mariotti, a former federal prosecutor and a columnist for *Politico* magazine, was among those who opposed the creation of the present committee led by Representative Jordan. He told *Time* magazine, "I am skeptical of the [Jordan] committee, because what it appears to be doing is trying to further a narrative rather than conduct a true, independent look at practices that are of concern." Ironically, Mariotti has appeared on various news outlets, such as ABC News and CNN, praising the January 6th Committee, which was clearly trying to "further a narrative rather than conduct a true, independent look" at what happened on January 6, 2021.

In order to better understand the need for today's "Church Committee," a look at the original Church Committee of the 1970s and the reasons for its inception is in order.

AP Images

Power politics: Created in 1975 to investigate U.S. intelligence agencies, including the CIA and FBI, the Church Committee, chaired by Senator Frank Church (right), included prominent political figures of the time.

Steve Byas is a university history and government instructor, and the author of History's Greatest Libels.

CIA Out of Control

The CIA was created in 1947, at a time of great national concern about the threat from the Soviet Union, which was attempting to spread its communist system around the world. President Harry Truman signed the legislation creating the CIA, but expressed concern that the agency could actually become a threat to the very liberty it was ostensibly set up to preserve. Years later, Truman told his biographer, Merle Miller, that his agreeing to create the CIA "was a mistake. If I'd known what was going to happen, I never would have done it."

Truman added, "Now, as nearly as I can make out, those fellows in the CIA don't just report on wars and the like, they go out and make their own, and there's nobody to keep track of what they're up to. They spend billions of dollars on stirring up trouble.… It's a government all of its own and all secret. They don't have to account to anybody." He concluded that this was not what the Founding Fathers had in mind.

Recent comments by Senator Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) confirm Truman's analysis. Shortly after Donald Trump was elected president, Schumer opined that Trump is "being really dumb" by taking on the intelligence community. "Let me tell you, you take on the intelligence community, they have six ways from Sunday at getting back at you." If what Schumer said is true — and it no doubt is — that should concern every American. The CIA was created for the supposed purpose of protecting American liberty in a world of foreign threats, as the *servant* of the American people. No president should have to fear his own intelligence agency simply because he publicly criticized it.

No doubt there were many patriotic and liberty-loving Americans who went to work for the CIA in its early years, believing that it was founded as an anti-communist organization. But the reality is that, from its very beginning, the agency regularly consorted with communists. In fact, one of its recent directors, John Brennan, cast his first vote in 1976 for Communist Party candidate Gus Hall for president. Apparently, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford were just too far to the right for Brennan. Tellingly, when Brennan joined the agency in 1980, the CIA had no problem with the fact that he supported a communist for president (which he admitted to the CIA).

Formation of the Church Committee

After *The New York Times* published an article by veteran journalist Seymour Hersh in December 1974 — reporting that the CIA had conducted many illegal domestic activities, including experiments on U.S. citizens — President Ford created a commission to investigate CIA activities within the United States, the United States President's Commission on CIA Activities within the United States. (Keep in mind that the CIA's charter was only for *foreign* intelligence, not domestic activity.) Ford named Vice President Nelson Rockefeller to chair the new committee, which led it to be known as the Rockefeller Commission. Considering that the Rockefellers had long ties with the CIA, this might seem like a case of the fox guarding the henhouse. But the Rockefeller Commission did reveal information about Project MKUltra, a CIA mind-control study. White House aide Dick Cheney edited the commission's findings, excluding many other findings from the final report, including nearly 100 pages about CIA assassination plots.

Concerned that the Rockefeller Commission was something of a whitewash, the U.S. Senate created a select committee to investigate the U.S. intelligence community, particularly the CIA, chaired by the aforementioned Senator Frank Church.

AP Images

Doing some good: Although a liberal Democrat, Senator Frank Church was careful to cultivate a more moderate image in his state of Idaho. His committee did uncover important information on the American intelligence community.

The Church Committee certainly reported many disturbing activities of the CIA and other intelligence agencies of the U.S. government. For example, the committee investigated Project MKUltra, revealing that the CIA had drugged and tortured U.S. citizens as part of a series of experiments on mind control. (The man who would later become known as the Unabomber — Ted Kaczynski — was among those experimented on while a student at Harvard.)

COINTELPRO, another CIA activity, involved the surveillance and infiltration of American political and civil-rights organizations. Family Jewels was a program to covertly assassinate foreign leaders; Operation Mockingbird was a systematic propaganda campaign with domestic and foreign journalists working for the CIA, along with multiple U.S. news organizations, that covered up such CIA activ-

The Church Committee seemingly ignored what could be described as the incestuous relationship between U.S. intelligence agencies and the mainstream media — a relationship that continues, in many ways, to the present day.

ity. Project Shamrock was an operation in which major telecommunications companies shared their traffic with the National Security Agency. Even Army intelligence spied on the civilian population, a revelation unearthed a few years before the creation of the Church Committee.

The committee also conducted an investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. They questioned 50 witnesses and examined 3,000 documents, with their focus on the support of the CIA and FBI for the Warren Commission. The Church Committee was particularly concerned whether there was any connection between the CIA plans to assassinate foreign leaders, such as Cuban communist dictator Fidel Castro, and Kennedy's assassination. They concluded that the CIA's investigation into the Kennedy assassination had been deficient, which led to the creation of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. That committee eventually decided there was evidence that probably more than one assassin was involved in the murder of President Kennedy.

Both the CIA and FBI had collectively intercepted, opened, and photographed more than 215,000 pieces of mail, the Church Committee learned. CIA agents had stuffed mail in briefcases or in coat pockets to avoid detection by postal officials.

Senator Church, appearing on NBC's *Meet the Press* in August 1975, expressed concerns that the capability to monitor any messages that "go through the air" could be "turned around on the American people, and no American would have any privacy left: such is the capability to monitor everything — telephone conversations, telegrams, it doesn't matter. There would be no place to hide.… If this government ever became a tyranny, if a dictator ever took charge in this country, the technological capacity that the intelligence community has given the government could enable it to impose total tyranny."

Ignoring Media's Role

Certainly, the CIA and other intelligence agencies have abused their powers over the last several decades, and the Church Committee did some good work in pulling back the curtain on some of their more abusive actions. However, the committee seemingly ignored what could be described as the incestuous relationship between U.S. intelligence agencies and the mainstream media — a relationship that continues, in many ways, to the present day.

According to an article written by Carl Bernstein for *Rolling Stone* magazine in 1977, it was estimated that more than 400 American journalists had secretly carried out work for the CIA. William Paley of CBS was among the powerful news executives who willingly cooperated with the agency, as did Henry Luce of *Time*, Arthur Sulzberger of *The New York Times*, and James Copley of the Copley News Service. Organizations that worked closely with the CIA from the years following the Second World War up to at least the 1970s included ABC, NBC, the Associated Press, UPI, Reuters, Hearst Newspapers, Scripps-Howard, *Newsweek*, the Mutual Broadcasting System, the *Saturday Evening Post*, and the *New York Herald-Tribune*. CIA officials themselves have said the most valuable news outlets were *The New York Times*, CBS, and Time, Inc.

While these media giants are generally described as left-of-center, the founder of *National Review*, William F. Buckley, Jr., first worked for the CIA after graduating from Yale. Buckley even wrote a series of novels glamourizing the CIA. Of course, Buckley's brand of supposed conservatism was of a type that would fit well within the CIA's activities.

Historically, professional journalists have been afforded a great amount of deference by foreign governments, even hostile ones. But if these foreign powers learn that a supposed "objective" journalist is spying on behalf of the CIA, that could place all foreign correspondents in jeopardy. Stuart Loory, a former correspondent for *The Los Angeles Times*, wrote in the *Columbia Journalism Review*, "If even one American overseas carrying a press card is a paid informer for the CIA, then all Americans with those credentials are suspect." Loory noted that, while journalists are apt to shine a spotlight on others, they are less likely to do so on themselves. "When it was reported," Loory lamented,

AP Images

Regrets: President Harry Truman signed the legislation creating the CIA, but later feared that he had helped create a shadow government in the United States.

AP Images

Church Committee 2.0? Representative Jim Jordan is chairing a new committee to investigate allegations of abuse of American liberty by intelligence agencies such as the FBI and CIA, both of which are an integral part of what is often called the Deep State.

"that newsmen themselves were on the payroll of the CIA, the story caused a brief stir, and then was dropped."

Bernstein noted that former CIA Directors William Colby and George H.W. Bush "persuaded the [Church] Committee to deliberately misrepresent the actual scope of the activities in its final report. The multivolume report contains nine pages in which the use of journalists is discussed in deliberately vague and sometimes misleading terms," and very little was said about the role broadcast executives played "in cooperating with the Agency."

One high-level CIA official told Bernstein, "There was a time when it wasn't considered a crime to serve your government. This all has to be considered in the context of the morality of the times."

Of course, serving the CIA is not necessarily the same thing as serving one's country, and the CIA is supposed to be serving the people of our country, rather than the other way around. And, as President Truman feared, the CIA and the rest of the intelligence community can come to believe that they *are* the government — a permanent unelected government, regardless of who is in the White House or in Congress — or, in modern parlance, a "Deep State."

This is where the original Church Committee failed the most, in not exposing the incestuous relationship between the permanent Deep State and what is supposed to be an independent media. Despite all of the evidence that the CIA made widespread use of journalists, the Church Committee opted against questioning any of the reporters, editors, publishers, or broadcast executives whose relationships with the agency were detailed in the files of the CIA.

Bernstein learned that the use of journalists and the continuing and extensive use of academics for recruitment and information-gathering purposes were two areas of inquiry that the CIA most avoided becoming public. Because the relationships were voluntary, Walter Elder, a deputy CIA director, argued, the committee lacked jurisdiction in the matter. One member of the committee told Bernstein that Church himself was "much more interested in making headlines than in doing serious, tough investigating. The Agency pretended to be giving up a lot whenever it was asked about the flashy stuff — assassinations and secret weapons and James Bond operations. Then, when it came to things that they didn't want to give away, that were much more important to the Agency, [CIA head William] Colby in particular called in his chits. And the committee bought it."

One prominent media giant that was an exception to this incestuous relationship was *U.S. News & World Report*, under David Lawrence. According to Bernstein, Lawrence "repeatedly refused requests by the CIA director [Allen Dulles] to use the magazine for cover purposes. At one point … Lawrence issued orders to his sub-editors in which he threatened to fire any *U.S. News* employee who was found to have entered into a formal relationship with the Agency." One senator told Bernstein that the CIA considered the secret relationship with the press the "highest, most sensitive covert program of all."

Going Forward

It would be naïve to think that intelligence agencies no longer maintain such relationships with at least some media sources. We know that executives at social-media giants such as Facebook and Twitter have willingly done the bidding of the Deep State, as evidenced by the requests of the FBI that the Hunter Biden laptop story — which could have changed the outcome of the 2020 presidential election — be buried. This illustrates a very important point that cannot be overemphasized: Many within the CIA and other intelligence agencies consider themselves the permanent government of the United States, and they have allies in the mainstream corporate media to maintain that position. They are not simply supporting the present occupant of the White House, but interfering in presidential elections (as they did in both 2016 and 2020) to help the candidate they prefer — the candidate most likely to preserve their position in the Deep State.

As Jordan's committee proceeds in its work, this is one area in which they need to differentiate from the Church Committee if we are to maintain limited, constitutional government in this country. ■

Domestic Dispute Turns Deadly

The Graham County Sheriff's Office issued a news release detailing a tragic shooting in Safford, Arizona, where a man was forced to shoot his stepson, who was violently assaulting him. The stepson had an active order of protection in place prohibiting him from contacting his stepfather, and had violated it at the time of the shooting. The sheriff's press release explained that both the Safford police and county sheriffs arrived on the scene to discover the stepson suffering from a gunshot wound, and the stepfather with serious facial injuries.

The stepson was taken to a nearby medical facility, and was later pronounced dead. The 74-year-old stepfather received medical treatment for his injuries. The criminal investigation later determined that the stepson had forced his way into the residence and begun beating his stepfather. The stepfather was able to retrieve a firearm and shoot the violent attacker. The investigation is ongoing.

Gun Control Struck Down by Judge

National Review reported on March 20 that a California gun-control law — the 2001 Unsafe Handgun Act — was recently struck down by a federal district court judge. Judge Cormac J. Carney, who was appointed by President George W. Bush, blocked enforcement of the law in response to a lawsuit filed by pro-gun plaintiffs, including the California Rifle & Pistol Association, who sought an injunction halting the enforcement of the law.

Judge Carney wrote that the requirements of the Unsafe Handgun Act "are having a devastating impact on Californians' ability to acquire and use new, state-of-the-art handguns." He explained how the law's requirement of mandatory microstamping was so cost-prohibitive that, since its enactment, "not a single new semiautomatic handgun has been approved for sale in California," and noted that the law's restrictions were severely limiting the firearm options for gun buyers in California. "When Californians today buy a handgun at a store, they are largely restricted to models from over sixteen years ago," Carney wrote in his opinion. He concluded that "because enforcing those requirements implicates the plain text of the Second Amendment, and the government fails to point to any well-established historical analogues that are consistent with them, those requirements are unconstitutional, and their enforcement must be preliminarily enjoined."

This federal court decision is definitely good news for supporters of the Second Amendment, but it remains to be seen how higher courts will rule on the same law. Still, the plaintiffs celebrated the court victory, and the president of the California Rifle & Pistol Association, Chuck Michel, released a statement saying, "if we can hold on to this great Second Amendment win, people will be able to choose from among thousands of the latest, greatest and safest handguns made today."

Florida Enacts Constitutional Carry

The *Tampa Bay Times* reported on April 3 that Florida joined numerous other states in allowing permitless carry, popularly referred to as "constitutional carry." Governor Ron DeSantis signed the bill into law, and it will take effect on July 1. The Democrats mostly voted against the law. Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri specifically addressed the concern voiced by Democrats that the new law would make it harder for law enforcement to keep criminals from carrying guns. Gualtieri explained that the new law requires people to carry identification with them while they're carrying firearms, and police can always check that identification to run a background check and determine if the person carrying has a disqualifying offense that might prevent him from carrying a gun. He explained that this approach is very similar to what was done during the permit-application process, which is no longer required.

Houston Residents Fight Back Against Criminals

Fox 26 reported out of Houston on March 28 about multiple incidents in which city residents exercised their rights to stop criminals. According to police reports, there was a shooting at the metro station when an 18-year-old tried stealing from a wheelchair-bound military veteran. The veteran shot the would-be robber, who is expected to survive. Houston Police Lieutenant J.P. Horelica explained that "the victim in the wheelchair was able to produce a firearm to defend himself and fired multiple shots striking the suspect."

Another incident involved a burglar kicking in a door to a Houston home, but leaving after an anti-theft alarm went off. The burglar was followed by a retired police officer, who confronted him in a shootout resulting in both men being injured. The homeowner told Fox26, "I think it was God's intention for him to get caught today, because at some point you need to stop…. I'm glad the officer is going to be okay. I can't wait to see him and tell him thank you for what he did for us."

Lastly, there was a shooting involving a food truck. Police say that the robbery suspect initially went up to the truck posing as a customer, but then tried robbing the workers of their cash. The occupants of the food truck closed the window on the would-be robber. The frustrated robber ran to his vehicle and retrieved a firearm, which he brought back to the food truck. He then forced open the window and tried shooting the occupants. Thankfully, the criminal's gun jammed, giving a worker inside the truck enough time to retrieve her own firearm and shoot the suspect. The suspect tried fleeing, but collapsed nearby and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Houston Police Department Lieutenant Bryan Bui had great advice for city residents dealing with violent criminals. "[Crime] can happen at any given time. You never know when it's going to happen. People just need to watch out and be aware of their surroundings," he told Fox26.com. ■

— Patrick Krey

THE
REVIEW

States Peddle Impossible Fantasy

by William P. Hoar

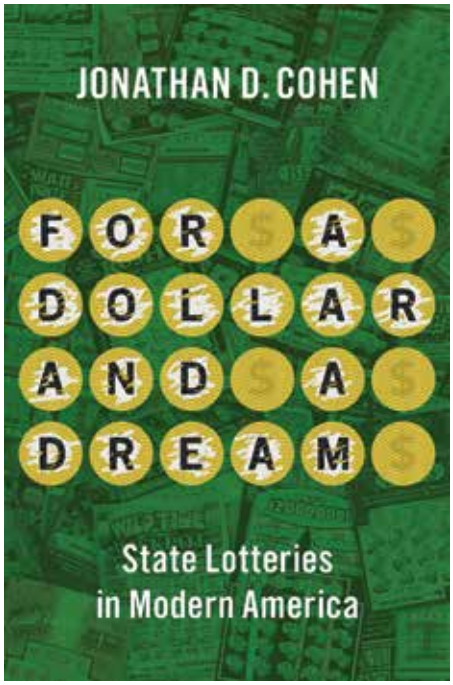
***For a Dollar and a Dream: State Lotteries in Modern America*,** by Jonathan D. Cohen, New York: Oxford University Press, 2022, 288 pages, hardcover.

Gambling is usually a means of getting nothing for your money. Or, worse, it is a way for people to go broke by trying to get rich. A whopping 45 of the 50 U.S. states are deep into the pockets of their residents via this oh-so-legal enterprise, otherwise known as state lotteries. The products that they push as supposedly crucial money-makers for the state (though that is a lie) offer odds that are minuscule for players, otherwise known as bettors.

Some dare call this a sucker bet. Others (such as the New York Lottery) insist: "You gotta be in it to win it."

This is their story.

There are 33 million Americans — or one of every eight adults — who buy into these schemes every single week. As is usually the case with government ventures, it started small (though with big promises), with the first state lottery in modern times beginning in 1964 in New Hampshire, with sales of $5.7 million, jumping eventually to a total of $91.4 billion by 2020 among the 45 states then involved.



In the volume under review, we hear from lottery proponents, opponents, and folks in-between. The peddlers get their chances too, including an Ohio Lottery executive who maintains, "We don't sell lottery tickets. We sell dreams."

It is a very sizeable illusion, as we learn:

> Roughly half of American adults play the lottery at least once a year, and one in four do so at least once a month, holding out the hope that they will overcome the odds standing between them and a massive windfall. Americans spend more on lottery tickets every year than on cigarettes, coffee, or smartphones, and they spend more on lottery tickets annually than on video stream services, concert tickets, books, and movie tickets *combined*. [Emphasis in original.]

And if by some very far-fetched chance one does hit it big, the government will be sure to tax the winnings. But we don't hear about that part.

Pipe Dreams Spread

Jonathan Cohen, the author of *For a Dollar and a Dream: State Lotteries in Modern America*, is a program officer at the American Academy of Arts & Sciences who received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Virginia; he has written on gambling policy and other topics for various publications. While his book is not neutral on the issue, his treatment is generally more balanced than argumentative.

This rather detailed narrative also draws from the archives of 17 states. Cohen's personal views on lotteries are assuredly not hidden, but they become more apparent in the book's conclusion.

The stage is set with past accounts about gambling and lotteries such as, for example, those in ancient Rome. (Cohen mentions Nero's raffles. He could also have noted that Augustus "mollified the poor with state grain, lotteries and occasional gifts," as historian Will Durant related.) There are references to various lotteries in Europe during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Also noted are the early days of this nation, with the author quoting a remark from a Boston newspaper in 1791, which observed that "Every part of the United States abounds in lotteries."

The tide in this country shifted in the 1820s, with most states banning such games. By the time of the Civil War, lotteries were prohibited in all states but Delaware, Kentucky, and Missouri. After an unsettled time following the war, the last sweepstakes left was the creature of the Louisiana State Lottery Company (aka "The Serpent" or "The Golden Octopus"). Its monopoly was advanced and strengthened by bribery of legislators. Finally, in the early 1890s, recounts Cohen, "Congress enacted a series of bills designed to slay the Octopus, by, for instance, blocking the transportation of lottery tickets and advertising across state lines."

While that led to the end of legal lotteries (for quite a while), lotteries did not disappear. Cohen also links other associated themes in his account, including race, income distribution, and criminal activities. Gambling, he writes,

> remained widespread around the country, including illegal lotteries, private card games, sports bets with bookies, underground casinos, or lotteries based overseas. Beginning in the 1920s, by far the most prominent form of illegal gambling was the numbers, daily three-digit lotteries that could be played for as little as a few pennies. These games were a pervasive part of urban African American life in New York, Chicago, and other major cities. Until the rise of state-run sweepstakes, numbers games informed most Americans' beliefs about how lotteries worked and who played them.

If you are of a certain age and lived or worked in or near such areas, you'll probably nod at that point. That life is not just a cinema creation.

As the book's title suggests, it centers on the growth of what ensued in the state lottery resurrection — with a first wave of legalizations between 1963 and 1977 in the Northeast and parts of the Rust Belt (New Jersey is emphasized); a second wave in California and other states in the early 1980s, with ballot initiatives driven by Scientific Games Inc.; "Lottomania" in the 1980s; and the spread to the South in the 1990s (with Georgia being highlighted). Hefty attention is paid to advertising, as well as the impact of religion and politics.

Graphics include a map with state lotteries identified by their first date of ticket sales, as well as a figure that rises continually, especially since the mid-1970s, depicting nationwide lottery sales. We meet major official players and the little folks, with the human touch being provided by personal experiences.

A woman in Georgia named Ashani Acquaviva is one such. She's played lotteries for two decades, we are told, and spends roughly $400 monthly, or about $5,000 annually. She has a "strategy" of sorts — playing certain numbers when she thinks they are "due" or when she has a good feeling about those numbers. She no longer works. The woman acknowledges to the author that she thinks about the lottery a lot more now than when she worked. Writes Cohen:

> When I asked what prize would make her stop her lottery habit, she first says $30,000. Then she admits that she meditates on $1 million. Of course, she dreams of winning a whole lot more, and sums of $10, $50, or $80 million come to mind. Whenever she drives past a sign bearing the lotto jackpot, she waves, smiles, and says she'll see it in her bank account soon.

These are your state government dollars at work.

Jonathan Cohen

twitter.com/JonathanDCohen1

Infinitesimal Odds of Winning

For a Dollar and a Dream gives the reader plenty of material to assimilate. The author does, for example, tell you more about the odds (in context) than you'll get from the promoters of the lotteries (where it will be usually found in tiny print). Cohen is also probably on target when he observes that so many of the players care a lot more about the size of the potential jackpot than their microscopic chance of winning.

For informational purposes, here are

AP Images

Not a cash cow: State lotteries have been sold by their promoters as a good revenue source for cash-strapped state governments. In reality, however, lotteries have failed to live up to the hype.

some excerpts from a table in the book with the odds of winning the New York Lottery during certain past formats: The chance of winning a 1985 game, with odds of one in 12 million, was roughly the same as becoming an astronaut; hitting a 1999 game, with odds of one in 18 million, was as likely as being canonized; and a 2001 game, at one in 45 million, offered around the same odds as being killed by a venomous snakebite in the United States.

Then, just for chuckles and/or head-shaking, see how likely the jackpot was in 2021 for a particular MegaMillions lottery: Hitting "the MegaMillions is the equivalent of releasing an ant onto an area the size of roughly four football fields, randomly sticking a pin into the ground, and hitting the ant." (For some reason, that brings to mind the popular quote from the '90s movie *Dumb and Dumber*: "So you're telling me there's a chance?")

For all its merits, however, the book also earns more than its share of demerits. Some are minor and could be fixed by judicious editing — such as the inaccurate assertion that the "casting of lots" in the Bible was a lottery game. A few demerits go for hyperbole, a venial sin in this case, but they include such excuses as this: "For most Americans, a lottery jackpot was their only chance at the newest definition of the good life."

Others are more basic. In his justifications, the author repeatedly deprecates the supposedly growing "income inequality" in this country. Similarly, he decries our alleged fewer opportunities and the "growing concentration of wealth," as if those are plausible reasons to trigger the actions of lower-income bettors. Clearly concerned not to engage in "victim-blaming," the author specifically shuns calling lotteries a "stupid tax" or a "tax on people who are bad at math" (his terms), then leans heavily in the opposite direction. The nation's economic conditions, he imputes, "have *compelled* tens of millions of Americans every single week to reason that their best hope for a new life lies in the luck of the draw." (Emphasis added.)

However, just because the government goes out of control doesn't oblige individuals to do likewise. It's a bit too much to explain away folks, presumably at the dead-end of hopelessness, going to the light through some scratch-off tickets.

To his credit, Cohen does remind readers of some of the empty promises made by promoters of lotteries and their various champions. For instance, he recalls that New Jersey Democratic Congressman Cornelius Gallagher projected that if all the revenue of illegal gambling (a reference to "numbers games") could "be channeled to the state through a legal lottery, we could abandon all taxation in New Jersey and increase every service in our state four times over." It didn't work out that way.

As Cohen recalls, even after it became clear that "a lottery could not replace new taxes, the something-for-nothing ethos that drove lottery legislation remained. In its first six years, the New Jersey lottery raised, on average, 2.5 percent of total annual state revenue." (One thing that Cohen does not point out is that Gallagher — once thought to be on LBJ's short-list for vice president — pled guilty in 1972 to tax evasion and perjury and was imprisoned.)

In reviewing his evidence, Cohen does note that proponents of lotteries are correct in saying that certain designated beneficiaries have been winners, such as those awarded scholarships from their revenues. Yet he also observes that such programs might well have been enacted without lotteries. The something-for-nothing chimera that states bet on, it turns out, didn't pan out as promised. All the states in the nation (less Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah) wound up (in 2020) with lotteries that accounted for just 2.3 percent of their total budgets. Frequently, we also find, the lotteries did not save funds by supplanting other tax spending, but rather supplemented it.

In his conclusion, Cohen observes that state lotteries

> appeal disproportionately to less-well-off-gamblers who stake their hopes for wealth on the promise of a jackpot with infinitesimal odds. Whether intended this way or not, lottery advertising and the growing size of jackpots have helped foster an unhealthy obsession with opulence and the idea that the only successful life is one lived in luxury. And the ubiquity of lotteries can lead to unhealthy play, including problem gambling. As state agencies, lotteries appear to run counter to the purpose of all other branches: to promote the greater good, not to sell a product to the public.

Winding down, the author is not equivocal, concluding that "state lotteries should not exist in the modern United States."

Nevertheless, Cohen acknowledges that he is "under no illusions that any state will seriously consider repealing its lottery." That sounds like a sure thing. ■

TAKING ACTION

House Investigations Are a Positive First Step

by William S. Hahn,
CEO of The John Birch Society

lucky-photographer/ iStock / Getty Images Plus

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) has a controversial reputation, thanks to a tireless smear campaign by the Left. The committee, which operated from 1938 to 1975, was officially authorized "to make from time to time investigations of the extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution, and all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation."

While some remember only the so-called blacklisting of Hollywood actors and actresses as a result of the committee's work, HCUA more importantly helped to "out" key subversives such as Alger Hiss. Hiss had served in the State Department and was instrumental in founding the United Nations, serving as its first acting secretary-general. In televised hearings, Whittaker Chambers, a former Communist and then senior editor for *Time* magazine, told the committee that Hiss was a Soviet agent and had fabricated 80 percent of his testimony. Hiss was convicted of perjury two years later (the statute of limitations for espionage had run out) and sentenced to five years in prison.

Hiss was a well-connected operative in what we now call the Deep State. JBS founder Robert Welch called Hiss "one of the Conspiracy's most able, cunning, and audacious agents."

Texas Democratic Congressman Martin Dies chaired the HCUA for its first seven years, and later wrote in the March 1968 issue of *American Opinion* (a predecessor of *The New American*), "Since the founding of our Republic our Legislative investigating committees have served notice upon America's enemies that they will not be permitted to thrive in secrecy."

Welch agreed, writing in the July 1968 JBS *Bulletin*, "The only place where the HCUA has a bad name is not among patriotic and informed Americans, but among the ComSymps [communist sympathizers] and their Liberal dupes who have been trying desperately for years to have it abolished."

Unfortunately, the federal government today is so rife with bureaucratic steady-staters that it provides lots of cover for America's enemies to thrive in secrecy.

Since 1958, The John Birch Society, the parent organization to *The New American*, has published voluminous proof that the American Republic is being deliberately subverted. Want to prove it? Use the Constitution as a measuring stick. Has the federal government consistently abided by its prescribed limitations over the long term? Have freedom and the free exercise of God-given rights grown exponentially since the Founding? The answer to both is an obvious "no." Over the last several generations in particular, constitutional limits on federal power have been largely set aside, and individual liberties have shrunken dramatically. This is not haphazard "mission creep." Rather, it is a deliberate plan designed to produce a socialist world government that will put an end to our national sovereignty, the Constitution, and individual liberty.

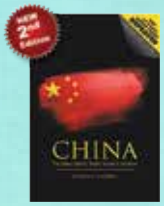
It is heartening to see the new House finally conducting investigations into federal corruption and the so-called weaponization of the government. For far too long, Deep Staters and assorted left-wing subversives have treated the federal government as their personal playground, at grievous cost to the body politic. Bringing their evil machinations to light is an important first step.

But a sustained effort, not just a brief spate of public outrage, will be needed to truly turn the tables. The Founders locally organized their fellow Colonists, created and distributed educational materials, and built support for the War for Independence. Our battle today is just as important, but this time, it's not an armed conflict. Rather, it's a struggle to restore the constitutional government the Founders gave us, along with the individual liberties it protected, using similar methods of organizing and educating the electorate.

Do more than read about the problems. Be part of the solution by joining The John Birch Society. Start at JBS.org. ■

FEATURED PRODUCTS

China: The Deep State's Trojan Horse in America — Book



In this new, second edition, author Art Thompson provides a startling wake-up call to Americans and furnishes them with critical information about the danger that China, supported by the Deep State, represents to the liberty and independence of the American people. (2021ed, pb, 178pp, 1-11/$7.95ea; 12-23/$5.95ea; 24-44/$3.95ea; 45+/$2.95ea) **BKCDSTHAN**

The World of Soros: Influencing Elections — Book

The World of Soros reveals a vast network of organizations and individuals working together to influence and/or control elections across America. It reveals what their goal is and how they aim to achieve it. (2022, pb, 173pp), 1-4/$9.95ea; 5-9/$8.00ea; 10-55/$6.50ea; 56+/$4.95ea) **BKWOS**

Trumpworld — Bookazine

This special Collector's Edition of *The New American* commemorates the historical importance of the Trumpworld movement in placing Donald Trump into the Oval Office and the implications of its continuing influence on American life for the foreseeable future. (2021, 98pp, pb, 1/$14.99ea, 2-9/$12.54ea, 10-39/$10.04ea, 40-79/$7.54ea, 80+/$6.29ea) **BKTW**

The Great Reset and Transhumanism — Bookazine

Use this special collector's edition of *The New American* to inform others about the Conspiracy and its various battlefronts, with the goal of making them effective participants in the freedom movement. (2022, 100pp, pb, 1/$14.99ea, 2-9/$12.54ea, 10-39/$10.04ea, 40-79/$7.54ea, 80+/$6.29ea) **BKGRTH**

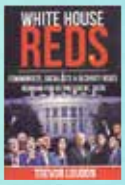
Restoring Election Integrity — Reprint

Sixteen-page reprint of the cover story by Kurt Hyde and "Leftists in Power" article by Steve Byas that originally appeared in the February 15, 2021 issue of *The New American*. (2021, 16pp, 1-24/$1.25ea; 25-99/$1.10ea; 100-499/$1.00ea; 500+/$0.75ea) **RPREI**

CFR: Still the Power Behind the Throne — Reprint

For a century, the globalist Council on Foreign Relations has been the "power behind the throne" in U.S. politics. This tradition has continued under the Biden administration. This reprint includes a list of the current CFR dominance over government, media, think tanks, foundations, public health, and industry as well as charts of the CFR historic dominance over the U.S. government from 1929 to present. (2021, 22pp, 1-24/$1.25ea; 25-99/$1.10ea; 499/$1.00ea; 500+/$0.75ea) **RPCFR2**

White House Reds — Book



On the show *Fox & Friends* on May 23, 2019, Donald Trump, Jr. said the 2020 election would be about "communism versus freedom." He was right. *White House Reds* profiles 10 high-profile contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination — all of them communists, socialists, or national security risks. (2020, pb, 269pp, 1/$24.95ea; 2-4/ $23.95ea; 5+/$21.95ea) **BKWHR**

In the Shadows of the Deep State — Book

New Edition! *In the Shadows of the Deep State* exposes the Deep State (aka the Swamp or the Establishment), its key players, its agenda, and how it can be stopped. Fourth printing. Bonus: Includes 2019 CFR list and one new addendum. (2021ed, 380pp, pb, 1-4/$10.95ea; 5-11/$9.00ea; 12-23/$7.50ea; 24+/$6.45ea) **BKISODS21**

Pastors Call for Modern-day "Black Robed Regiment" — Reprint

"If today's church does not stand as our founding generation stood, we will not only lose our republic, but our liberties as well." — Pastor Dan Fisher, founder of "Bringing Back the Black Robed Regiment" (2022, 4pp, 1-24/$0.35ea; 25-99/$0.30ea; 100+/$0.25ea) **RPPCBRR**

Benedict Biden: Water Carrier for the New World Order — Book

This book reveals Biden's startling agenda in his own words and actions — his program for making America over into only a cog in the "New World Order" (his words, not ours) — and explains what can be done about it. (2022ed, 151pp, pb, 1-11/$7.95ea; 12-23/$5.95ea; 24-63/$3.95ea; 64+/$2.95ea) **BKBBNWOWC**

Agenda 2030 and You — Booklet

Building on the original *Agenda 21 and You* booklet, this new booklet covers its progression as "Agenda 2030." (2022, 30pp, pb), 1-9/$3.95ea; 10-24/$3.00ea; 25-49/$2.50ea; 50-99/$2.00ea; 100+/$1.95ea) **BKLTA2030**

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